FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-214
Monday
6 November 1995

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-214 CONTENTS *6 November 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

DUMA ELECTION ISSUES

Key Developments

Supreme Court Obliges TsIK To Register Yabloko *[INTERFAX]* 1
  Witness: Ryabov Miscounted Votes *[Moscow Radio]* 1
  Witness Was Urged To Falsify Material *[Moscow NTV]* 1
  TsIK Official Denies Charges *[INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 2
  Yavlinskiy Comments on Court Verdict *[Moscow RTV]* 2
  Presidential Aides Commend Decision *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Democratic Russia Withdraws in Favor of Yabloko *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 2 Nov]* 3
Supreme Court Rules Derzhava Can Run in Elections *[INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 4
  Rutskoy To Sue TsIK Member for Slander *[INTERFAX]* 4
Ryabov Criticizes Supreme Court's Decisions *[Moscow ORT]* 5
Chernomyrdin Not To Make Pre-Election Tours *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Shakhray Presents PRES Election Program *[INTERFAX]* 5

Regional Activities

Eight Duma Candidates Registered in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Perm Oblast Finalizes Electoral Slates *[SEGODNYA 2 Nov]* 6

Election Guidelines

Russia's Choice Not To Seek Special Duma Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Khakamada, Nikonov Demand Amendment to Election Law *[SEGODNYA 3 Nov]* 7
  Isakov: Duma 'Will Not Support' Proposal *[ITAR-TASS]* 8

Forecasts & Commentary

Yavlinskiy Comments on Significance of Elections *[INTERFAX]* 8
Prospects for Gaydar's DVR 'Far From Radiant' *[IZVESTIYA 28 Oct]* 8
Gromov Interviewed on Election, Foreign Ministry *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 1 Nov]* 12
Skokov Cited on KRO's Prospects, Yeltsin, Yabloko *[SEGODNYA 4 Nov]* 15
Kremlin Mailbag Reveals High Interest in NDR *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 3 Nov]* 15
Yabloko, Democratic Choice Lead in Poll *[INTERFAX]* 16

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 Nov 17

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reportage on Russian Reaction to Rabin Assassination 18
  Chernomyrdin Pays Tribute at Funeral *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
  Yeltsin Telegrams Condolences to Peres *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
  Gorbachev Sends Condolences to Israel *[INTERFAX]* 18
  Chernomyrdin 'Stunned' by Assassination *[Moscow NTV]* 19

Shumeyko Condemns Assassination *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Chief Rabbi of Russia Denounces Murder *[Radio Rossii]* 19
Mufti Pays Tribute to 'Fighter for Peace' *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Foreign Ministry: Kozyrev Not in Israel *[Moscow Radio]* 20
Karasin Expresses Support for Yugoslav Peace Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
'Bewildered' by Milosevic Remarks on Aid *[INTERFAX]* 20
Relief Supplies for Serb Refugees Arrive *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Dayton Talks Reportedly Permit 'Cautious Optimism' *[INTERFAX]* 21
Grachev Plans For Bosnian Forces Decision in Brussels *[Moscow Radio]* 21
Continuing Discussion on Russia's Role *[INTERFAX]* 22
Semyonov: Russia Will Fulfill CFE Treaty by 16 Nov *[INTERFAX]* 22
Need To Ratify START II Examined *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 3 Nov]* 22
Moscow Inquires on U.S. Plans To Resume Nuclear Tests *[INTERFAX]* 23
Pickering Comments on Elections; Cooperation With U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 23
Military Alliance With Iran Dismissed as 'Absurd' *[INTERFAX]* 24
Khodakov Censures Attempts To Pressure Caspian States *[INTERFAX]* 24
DPRK, Maritime Territory Sign Trade Memorandum *[Moscow International]* 26
Moscow To Give Up Military Union With North Korea *[INTERFAX]* 26
Moscow, Hague Sign Chemical Weapons Destruction Protocol *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Russian, Slovak Premiers Comment on NATO Enlargement *[PRAVDA 2 Nov]* 27
State Department's Burns Cited on Chernomyrdin Role *[IZVESTIYA 5 Nov]* 27

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Further Reportage, Commentary on Yeltin's Illness 28
Premier Confirms Yeltsin in Charge *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Grachev Answers 'Directly' to Yeltsin *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 4 Nov]* 28
Soskovets: Yeltsin 'Well Informed' *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Filatov on Yeltsin's Health, Elections *[Moscow NTV]* 29
Daily Sees Yeltsin on Path to Recovery *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 Nov]* 31
Yeltsin Issues Edict on Supreme Court of Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Questions Parliamentary Immunity Law *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Yeltsin Aide Suggests Return of Federation Council Bill *[INTERFAX]* 32
Yeltsin Submits Civil Code, Military Laws to Duma *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 3 Nov]* 33
Advisor Denies Rift Between Chernomyrdin, Kozyrev *[INTERFAX]* 33
Chernomyrdin Holds Conference With Local Leaders *[Moscow ORT]* 33
Premier Promises To Keep Inflation Down *[INTERFAX]* 34
Former Acting Prosecutor General Dismissed *[INTERFAX]* 34
Kulikov Fires Police General for Criminal Links *[INTERFAX]* 34
Luzhkov Denies Investment in Russia 'Risky Business' *[Moscow International]* 35

Media Issues

Court Refuses To Examine Yeltsin TV Edict *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Yakovlev Disputes Findings on 'Ostankino' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 1 Nov]* 35

Military & Nuclear Issues

General Dismissed For Not Fulfilling Grachev Order *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 2-8 Nov]* 37
General Warns Against Dividing Air Defense System *[INTERFAX]* 37
Gromov Interviewed on Army Reform *[Moscow Radio]* 37
UK Paper Cited on Squabble Over 'Nuclear Button' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Nov]* 38

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Assesses State Duma's Successes, Failures *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 2 Nov]* 39

Replacement Plan for Rybkin Seen *[IZVESTIYA 4 Nov]* 39
Democratic Party To Raise Health Commission Question *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 3-10 Nov]* 40
Conciliation Commission Raises Export Tax on Gas *[SEGODNYA 3 Nov]* 40

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Negotiations, Military, Politics 41
Lobov: Russia Does Not Refuse Negotiations *[INTERFAX]* 41
Lobov Meets Khasbulatov in Groznyy *[INTERFAX]* 41
Rebels Respond Positively to Proposal *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Zorin: No Negogiations Under Military Threat *[INTERFAX]* 42
Shkirko Concerned Over Missing Servicemen *[INTERFAX]* 42
Rebels Warned Not To Start Another War *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Grachev: Troops 'Prepared' for Winter *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Shkirko: Troops Taking 'Additional Measures' *[INTERFAX]* 43
Yarikhanov: Field Commanders Remain Loyal *[INTERFAX]* 43
Yarikhanov: No Weekend Armed Attacks Planned *[INTERFAX]* 44
Yarikhanov Denies Kulikov's Death Sentence *[INTERFAX]* 44
Rebels Blow Groznyy-Gudermes Bridge *[INTERFAX]* 44
Head of Constitutional Court Interviewed *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 2-8 Nov]* 44
March 1996 Deadline for Elections Seen *[INTERFAX]* 46
Restoration Commission Sums Up Work *[IZVESTIYA 4 Nov]* 46
Mikhaylov Heads New Osset-Ingush Conflict Commission *[SEGODNYA 3 Nov]* 47
Vladivostok Port Blames 'Currency Corridor' for Losses *[ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY]* 48
Moscow Gives Permission To Mark October Anniversary *[Moscow International]* 48
Yakutia Court Lets MP's Decide on Referendum *[SEGODNYA 4 Nov]* 48
Election Monitoring Group Set Up in Kursk Region *[Moscow RTV]* 48
Irkutsk Electoral Coalition Announcement Reported *[VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA 1 Nov]* 49
Novosibirsk Administration Roundtable Reviewed *[SOVETSKAYA SIBIR 1 Nov]* 49

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Sets Terms for Sale of State-Owned Shares *[SEGODNYA 3 Nov]* 50
Federal Stake in Sale of Shares Delayed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 Nov]* 50
Impact of Yeltsin's Illness on Markets Assessed *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 2-8 Nov]* 51
Soskovets: Transitional Economy Needs State Backing *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Chubays: Low Inflation Stops Talk of Economic Crash *[INTERFAX]* 52
Chubays on Decision To Ease Financial Burden on Banks *[INTERFAX]* 52
Conference on Economic Outlook Assessed *[FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA 2 Nov]* 53
National Debt in 1996 May Rise 35.2 Trillion Rubles *[INTERFAX]* 54
Moscow, IMF Positions on Credit Disbursement Reported *[INTERFAX]* 54
EBRD Issues $40 Million Loan to Moscow Bank *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Nicaragua Debt Repayment Talks Fail *[ITAR-TASS]* 55

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma To Attend Rabin's Funeral *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Kuchma Meets Participants in Russian-Ukrainian Conference *[Kiev TV]* 56
No Serious Problems in Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Fleet, NATO Discussed With Delegation *[UNIAN]* 57
Spokesman on Natural Gas Accord Signed in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 57
Kuchma: Latin American Tour Attempt To Break Into Markets *[INTERFAX]* 57

Talks With G-7 Coordinate Draft on Chernobyl Closure *[INTERFAX]* 58
U.S. Space Shuttle Will Have Ukrainian Equipment Onboard *[Kiev International]* 58

National Affairs

Interior Ministry Issues Warning on Revolution Anniversary *[Kiev TV]* 58
  Rukh Opposes Anniversary Celebration *[Kiev International]* 58
  Leftists, National-Democrats To Demonstrate *[INTERFAX]* 59
Verkhovna Rada Defies Kuchma Veto on Law on Deputies *[INTERFAX]* 59
Prosecutor Ordered To Examine Hryvna Affair *[UNIAN]* 59
Report on Ukraine's Shift Toward Nuclear Power *[Moscow RTV]* 60
Space Agency Chief on Opportunities To Make Profit *[UNIAN]* 60
Mounting Unrest Among Crimean Tatars Causes Concern *[UNIAN]* 60
  Constitution Amended After Hunger Strike *[UNIAN]* 61
  Parliament Deputy Joins Hunger Strike *[UNIAN]* 61
  Tatars Continue Hunger Strike *[ITAR-TASS]* 61
  Officials Comment on Crimean Situation *[INTELNEWS]* 62

Economic Issues

Pynzenyk: Manufacturing 'Key' to Economy 'Rebirth' *[INTELNEWS]* 63
Official Reports on Oblast Privatization *[INTELNEWS]* 63

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

President Lukashenka Sends Condolences to Israel *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Lukashenka Addresses Greetings on Eve of October Revolution *[Minsk Radio]* 64
Lukashenka Views Possibility of Presidential Rule *[Minsk TV]* 64
Lukashenka Addresses Parliament on Economy *[Minsk Radio]* 65
Hryb Addresses Supreme Soviet Deputies *[Minsk Radio]* 67

Moldova

Romania's Melescanu Characterizes Ties as 'Good' *[INFOTAG]* 68
Weekly Describes State as 'Russian Creature' *[BASAPRESS]* 69
Politicians View Snegur's Legislative Initiatives *[BASAPRESS]* 69

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Toqayev: Train Detained in Russia Will Not Affect Relations *[INTERFAX]* 71
Two Hundred More Kazakh Expatriates Return From Iran *[Tehran IRNA]* 71

Kyrgyzstan

Visiting German Foreign Minister Backs Early Elections *[Bishkek Radio]* 71

Tajikistan

President Rakhmanov Awarded Title of Army General *[ITAR-TASS]* 71
Security Measures Increased After Dushanbe Bomb Blast *[ITAR-TASS]* 72
Rakhmanov's Adviser Accuses Deputy of Murder *[Dushanbe Radio]* 72
Supreme Assembly Hears of Increase in Crime *[Dushanbe Radio]* 72

TV To Resume Broadcasting Iranian Programs 'Soon' *[Tehran IRNA]* 73

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat Declines CIS Military, Media Integration *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 73
Niyazov, Slovakia's Meciar Discuss Cooperation *[Ashgabat Radio]* 73

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Ter-Petrosyan Sends Condolences to Israel *[ITAR-TASS]* 74
President Receives French Minister for European Affairs *[Yerevan Radio]* 74
    French Envoy on Nuclear Plant 'Concern' *[ITAR-TASS]* 74
Deputy Foreign Minister Receives OSCE Officials *[Yerevan Radio]* 74
President Favors Wider International Role in Karabakh *[INTERFAX]* 74
U.S. Official on 'Taking Concrete Steps' on Karabakh *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 75

Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With U.S. Delegation *[INTERFAX]* 75
Aliyev Discusses Ties With U.S. Official *[Baku TV]* 76
U.S.-Saudi Team Plan To Build Turkmenistan-India Pipeline *[TURAN]* 77
Media Warned Against 'Sensation-Hunting' Over Metro Fire *[TURAN]* 78
    No Trace of Poison Gas Found *[INTERFAX]* 78
    Experts Say Fire Caused By Short Circuit *[INTERFAX]* 78
    Moscow 'Experts' Cast Doubt on Metro Report *[Moscow ORT]* 78

Georgia

Shevardnadze Condemns Assassination of Rabin *[ITAR-TASS]* 79
    Shevardnadze May Fly to Israel *[IPRINDA]* 79
    Shevardnadze Seeks UNSC Terrorism Session *[INTERFAX]* 79
Shevardnadze Denies Plans To Deploy Russian Nuclear Weapons *[Tbilisi TV]* 79
Reportage, Commentary on Georgian Elections 80
    Trouble-Free Elections Promised *[Tbilisi TV]* 80
    Foreign Observers To Monitor Election *[ITAR-TASS]* 80
Shevardnadze Gives Election Address *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
    Giorgadze Urges Vote for Patiashvili *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
    Communist Party Leader 'Will Not Withdraw' *[Moscow RTV]* 82
    Gali District Not Participating *[INTERFAX]* 82
    Interior Minister: No 'Serious Incidents' *[Tbilisi TV]* 82
    Shevardnadze Wins Presidential Elections *[Tbilisi Radio]* 82
    Victory Called Triumph for Democracy *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
    Shevardnadze Thanks Voters for 'Right Choice' *[AFP]* 83
    Commission Confirms Preliminary Results *[IPRINDA]* 83

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Meri Says U.S. Backs Estonia's NATO Entry *[ITAR-TASS]* 84
President Meri Leaves For Rabin's Funeral *[Tallinn Radio]* 84
Meri Approves, Comments on New Government *[INTERFAX]* 84
    New Government Appointees Listed *[ETA]* 84

Lithuania

Slezevicius, Gylys Attend Rabin's Funeral *[Vilnius Radio]* 85
Landsbergis Blasts 'High-Handed' Slezevicius, 'Weak' Policy *[Vilnius Radio]* 85
Foreign Ministry Denies Replacement of Envoy in Moscow *[Vilnius Radio]* 85

Key Developments

Supreme Court Obliges TsIK To Register Yabloko

LD0411202095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Supreme Court has obliged the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) [TsIK] to register the federal list of the Yabloko election alliance consisting of 187 candidates by November 7.

The Supreme Court overrode the CEC's October 25 decision to deny registration to Yabloko.

The Supreme Court turned down the suit filed by lawyer Vasiliy Kharchenko against the Central Electoral Commission. Kharchenko sued the CEC for 50 million rubles in compensation for moral damages, because, said the plaintiff, CEC decisions limited his electoral rights.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said in an interview afterwards he was unprepared for today's court decision. He said he was still more surprized by the prosecutor's attitude, who, Yavlinskiy said, criticized the CEC for unlawful actions and asked the court to send a special memorandum addressed to the President, the State Duma and the Federation Council, who form the CEC.

Yavlinskiy said that the prosecutor's proposal for separate inquiries into specific instances of power abuse by CEC staff were also totally unexpected to him.

Witness: Ryabov Miscounted Votes

LD0411101595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Court today continued its examination of the complaint from the election bloc Yabloko.

[Correspondent] At its morning sitting, the Supreme Court continued questioning witnesses in the case, adding one more irregularity to a variety of others by the Central Electoral Commission: the witness who made a video recording of the commission's meeting on 29 October testified that in the ballot [Central Electoral Commission chairman] Nikolay Ryabov counted only the votes in favor, totally forgot about the votes against, and made a mistake with the abstentions, counting three, rather than four as was the case.

It would appear, however, that the judge presiding over the case has already made up his mind and did not even bother to view the video recording.

The Central Electoral Commission has said it will present to the court today witness [Valeriy] Yegorov [of the Central Electoral Commission] who yesterday was accused of exerting pressure on a Yabloko representative and giving evidence compromising that election bloc.

Ivan Trefilov, Ekho Moskvy, from the Supreme Court.

Witness Was Urged To Falsify Material

LD0311210795 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Report by correspondent Maryana Maksimovskaya from the "Segodnya" newscast, with recordings of proceedings at the Supreme Court in Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Maksimovskaya] Speaking at the Supreme Court, Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said the Central Electoral Commission's [TsIK] refusal to register Yabloko's lists of candidates was due to the personal ambitions and political blackmailing of the TsIK's leaders. Yavlinskiy described the juridical reason put forward by the TsIK as groundless.

[Yavlinskiy, addressing the court] This is definite — an attempt has been made to damage a democratic and reformist association.

[Maksimovskaya] The court sitting began at 1000 in the morning and lasted all day. As well as Yabloko's general complaint the court also examined a statement by Yabloko candidate Aleksey Arbatov, who decided to make a separate complaint against the TsIK, and a complaint from Muscovite Vasiliy Kharchenko who was intending to vote for Yabloko in the elections. He considered the TsIK's refusal to register Yabloko a violation of his rights as a citizen.

[Kharchenko, addressing the court] The Central Electoral Commission restricted citizens' rights, my electoral rights in particular, to take part in managing state affairs.

[Maksimovskaya] The representative of the TsIK insisted that their decision had been legal and even went on the attack, accusing Yabloko of forging a candidate's statement. But a real sensation was caused by a speech by Valeriy Galchenko, a witness for Yabloko and deputy chairman of the Moscow Regional Duma who recently left the Yabloko list so that he could stand as a governor. He told the court that TsIK employee Valeriy Yegorov, on behalf of the TsIK leaders, had asked him to falsify compromising material on Yabloko.

[Galchenko, addressing the court] This is what was said: you see the Yabloko lists, I have a request, we have a request, that you sign a statement to the effect that you were included in the Yabloko list without your knowledge.

[Svanidze] According to some reports, with all due respect to you, Yabloko has shown that it is poorly organized. Otherwise, the case would not have gone all the way to the Supreme Court.

[Yavlinskiy] You read the wrong newspapers. Yabloko has actually shown in court that it is absolutely well organized. Do not forget that Yabloko would otherwise never have been able to gather 930,000 signatures and get them all registered and accepted and presented properly, and deliver half a million of them to the Central Electoral Commission in the time available to us. [passage omitted]

Presidential Aides Commend Decision

LD0411180695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian presidential aide Georgiy Satarov commended the Supreme Court's decision overruling the Central Election Commission's refusal to register the Yabloko, Derzhava and several other blocs.

"The Russian Supreme Court has removed yet another obstacle on the path to a timely conduct of elections to the State Duma," Satarov said.

Satarov told ITAR-TASS on Saturday that "from now on the participants in the election campaign should wage their election struggle on their own and not wait for the Supreme Court or God to help them."

In another development, the president's representative in the parliament Aleksandr Yakovlev told ITAR-TASS that "I think we can congratulate the entire Russian society on the restoration of justice in the democratic procedure of the upcoming elections to the State Duma to be held on December 17."

Yakovlev believes that the Supreme Court's decision is a "positive result which can help perfect our election legislation in the future."

At the same time, he noted that "we should not reproach the Central Election Commission for demanding full compliance with regulations."

He believes that the Central Election Commission did not want to be politically biased and tried to follow the spirit and the letter of law.

Yakovlev stressed the need for all election blocs and authorities involved in the election process to be guided by "the cold logic of the law and respect for opponents. Otherwise, the very process of democratisation in Russia may be endangered.

However, Central Election Commission spokesman Viktor Laryushkin told ITAR-TASS that the commission may contest the Supreme Court's ruling which obligated it to register the moderate reformist Yabloko group headed by liberal economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by November 7.

Asked whether the commission regards it possible, Laryushkin laughed and said, "Why not? The law gives the Central Election Commission such a right."

He pointed out that "if this decision of the Supreme Court is promptly dispatched to the Central Election Commission, the question of Yabloko's registration may be included in the agenda of its meeting already tomorrow."

Democratic Russia Withdraws in Favor of Yabloko

MK0411122095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Last Hope Remains. Winning Court Trial, 'Democratic Russia' Withdraws From Elections in Favor of 'Yabloko'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The council of the "Democratic Russia and Free Trade Unions" electoral bloc intends to make public a statement on deciding against registering its federal list of candidates for the State Duma. Having collected 211,892 signatures of Russian citizens in support of its list, the bloc ran into opposition from the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK], which on 22 October unlawfully refused to accept all of the documents and lists of signatures submitted by the bloc. On 30 October 1995, the Russian Federation Supreme Court ruled that the TsIK's actions were unlawful. The next day, however, the TsIK refused, in contravention of the Supreme Court ruling, to return to the bloc the accepted part of its documents so that later all the documents could be simultaneously submitted in strict compliance with the law "On Elections...."

The bloc's council claims that the refusal to accept the documents and signatures is not the only unlawful act on the part of the TsIK and district electoral commissions toward a number of electoral blocs and associations. In confirmation of these words, the statement's authors recall that it was "the Russian Federation TsIK, on a cue from the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], that disseminated insulting information about the cochairman of the 'Democratic Russia' movement, Gleb Yakunin" and that "Comrade Ryabov was obliged to officially apologize for the fact."

Furthermore, the TsIK prohibited candidates included on the federal list from running as independent candidates in single-seat constituencies, which was a painful blow to "Democratic Russia," whose cochairmen Galina Starovoytova and Viktor Kurochkin had to leave the bloc. These TsIK clarifications were already received in the course of collecting signatures for the list on which Galina Starovoytova held the leading spot, and now, owing to the changing of the rules in the middle of the game, the bloc has grounds to fear that all its signatures could be annulled.

Members of the bloc also noted that, in the wake of their sharp criticism of the Russian Federation TsIK's actions on 23 and 24 October, "the attitude to the bloc's candidates in single-seat constituencies graphically changed." Indeed, district electoral commissions registered before 23 October eight of the eight considered candidates who are members of this bloc, whereas after 23 October they refused registration to three of four of the bloc's candidates. Mr. Yakunin had to withdraw his candidacy in Tushino Electoral District No. 200 "because of insinuations of members of the district electoral commission."

Claiming that the TsIK is committing similar unlawful actions in regard to other opposition electoral associations, in particular the "Yabloko" bloc, the statement's authors particularly stress the fact that the TsIK at the same time "shut their eyes to crude violations of current legislation by electoral blocs created by the executive branch."

In the final analysis, the bloc's council concludes that the TsIK has changed from the election organizer into one of the participants in the political struggle, for which reason the bloc considers it impossible for itself to "continue to participate in the election campaign on the federal level and thus keep up the semblance of the observance of democratic norms."

The statement contains a final refusal "to register the bloc's federal electoral district list so as not to share with the Russian Federation TsIK responsibility for the non-observance of electoral legislation."

Voicing the hope that this step will attract the attention of the Russian and world public "to the arbitrariness and lawlessness, to the total breakdown of law in Russia regarding the elections, the bloc calls upon all its supporters to back the federal list of "Yabloko" so that at least one opposition democratic association can be guaranteed seats in the new State Duma.

Supreme Court Rules Derzhava Can Run in Elections

LD0311145195 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1428 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The country's Supreme Court has found illegal the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the socio-patriotic movement Derzhava (led by Aleksandr Rutskoy), an Ekho Moskvy radio station correspondent reports from the Supreme Court.

On 28 October the Central Electoral Commission refused to register the socio-patriotic movement Derzhava. The reason given was the discovery of legal violations in the collection of signatures and also the absence of statements from some of the candidates on the Derzhava list that they agree to stand.

Rutskoy To Sue TsIK Member for Slander

LD0411135095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Derzhava (Great Power) Social-Patriotic Movement Aleksandr Rutskoy has confirmed the intention to sue member of the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] Yevgeniy Ishchenko.

Rutskoy told INTERFAX Saturday [4 November] morning he does not plan to leave unpunished a public pronouncement of Ishchenko made at a meeting of the Central Electoral Commission saying Derzhava allegedly "pressed on and gave bribes to citizens" when collecting signatures in its support.

Commenting on Friday resolution of the Russian Supreme Court, which instructs the Central Electoral Commission to register Derzhava as a participant in the upcoming Duma elections, Rutskoy stressed he does not doubt his movement "keeps the law, and any juridical claims are impossible."

He said the refusal of the Central Electoral Commission to register the movement was "merely political."

Bearing in mind a resolution of the Supreme Court is not liable for appeal, and Derzhava has actually become a participant in the elections, Rutskoy plans to hold a meeting of Derzhava regional heads on November 8-9 to discuss the progress and methods of regional electioneering.

In the words of Rutskoy, he will go on an election tour to the Northern Caucasus late next week.

Ryabov Criticizes Supreme Court's Decisions

LD0511213395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Sunday" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ryabov] It is my opinion that in a number of its decisions the [Supreme] Court has overstepped the mark. First of all, it has denied us the right to apply the law uniformly. We have been denied this right through the court's actions, despite the fact that the law states very clearly that the Central Electoral Commission has the responsibility to provide a uniform application of the law on the entire territory of the Russian Federation. The second point is that the Central Electoral Commission has the right to issue instructions and explanations, and other normative acts, which are binding on all electoral commissions. The third point is that decisions made by the Central Electoral Commission are binding on all state bodies and organizations, public organizations, and state employees. So, the court has in fact told us that we did not have this authority.

At the same time it took upon itself to interpret the law on the basis of the opinion of a single judge. I think this is real abuse of power. This alone casts doubt on the legality of the decisions taken by the court, and on the competence of the individuals who are involved in making such decisions.

Now about the decisions made by the court. Electoral associations apply to the court asking it to overturn the decisions taken by the Central Electoral Commission. The court has the right to study the complaints against the commission or to overturn our decisions, be it about the registration or the refusal to register. But it seems to me that even here the court... [pauses] This is not a simple question, I'll tell you that straight away. But it seems to me that here too, the court has overstepped the mark. It orders us to register electoral associations. It orders us! Go and register by such and such date! The prosecutor has proposed to send special recommendations to those who are involved in selecting the Central Electoral Commission, that is to the president, the State Duma, and the Federation Council. Special recommendations to the president and the highest legislative body in the country! This woman, the prosecutor, whose role has been determined by an order of an official, gives special recommendations to the highest-ranking politicians of the country, and to the highest legislative body in the country, that is the State Duma and the Federation Council. It seems to me that this is plain arrogance and politicking. And this is our judicial system. It is totally unsuitable for an electoral campaign, for an electoral system. It is totally unsuitable.

[Correspondent] A precedent has been established. If a similar situation arises at a later stage, will the Central Electoral Commission bear the Supreme Court in mind in its future actions?

[Ryabov] We will act according to law. Let the Supreme Court take upon itself the responsibility and risk to make other similar decisions. The public will judge for itself which actions are based on laws and which are based on pseudo-laws.

Chernomyrdin Not To Make Pre-Election Tours

LD0311110695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who heads the Our Home Is Russia movement, is not expected to make pre-election tours around the country in November, a source from the prime minister's closest associates, told ITAR-TASS.

The source added that the prime minister plans initially a trip to St. Petersburg 21-22 November. However, the trip is not connected with the pre-election run-up. Viktor Chernomyrdin plans to continue a discussion of a whole set of the city's problems. The discussion began during his previous trip to St. Petersburg in late August.

Shakhray Presents PRES Election Program

LD0311205295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 gmt 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Russia will hopefully have a professional parliament after the December 17 parliamentary elections, the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES), Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, said at a presentation of its election program in Moscow Friday.

Shakhray said the PRES was the only party presenting "so widely and personally" its candidates running for the State Duma both by party ticket and in single mandate constituencies.

Shakhray said the PRES had prepared a number of draft laws, including on land, elections, status of deputies and budget adoption procedure.

In economics, the PRES supports stabilization, higher efficiency of the industrial and agricultural sectors and taxation reform. "If the state lacks money, it should cut spending rather than raise already overindulgent taxes," he added.

In state affairs, the party's main goals will be to strengthen federalism and local self-government, and to ensure all bodies of power and officials are elected and accountable to the people.

Shakhray said he will be Russia's president, but will not run for the presidency in 1996.

Speaking on the situation in Chechnya, he said the Nationalities Ministry he had chaired for sixteen months "managed to do something which prevented Dzhokhar Dudayev from setting the whole Caucasus on fire."

Asked by INTERFAX about the PRES-proposed referendum on private ownership of land, Shakhray said over 160,000 signatures in its support had been canvassed. The draft law on land, to be submitted to referendum, will be "widely published in the local and national press, so the electors will know for sure what they are voting for." The document envisions state control of the movement of land and bans its sale to foreigners, especially during the transition period.

Regional Activities

Eight Duma Candidates Registered in Chechnya

LD0411190695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — Eight candidates to the State Duma were registered in Chechnya in the 31st one-seat constituency of the republic, Abdul Kerim Arsakhanov, Chairman of the Electoral Commission, told ITAR-TASS on Saturday. Lechi Magomadov, Chairman of the National Accord Committee, tops the list after Doku Zavgayev, elected Chairman of the government by the Supreme Soviet of Chechnya, have withdrawn his candidature.

Candidates include military commissioner of the republic, Colonel Ibragim Suleimanov, Agriculture Minister Alash Saikhanov, persons representing interests of the Russian Union of Depositors, figures of the all-Russia Islamic Movement and three independent candidates.

According to Arsakhanov, the Agrarian Party and the Russian Communist Party have strong positions in Chechnya. It is only a representative of Liberal Democrats who was denied registration as lists of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] where formulated with infringements of rules, Arsakhanov said.

"We hope that the bulk of the Chechen population will go to the polling stations on December 17. The necessary conditions will be created for those who wish to vote," Arsakhanov said. District electoral commissions have already been formed in most Chechen districts, except for Nozhay-Yurt, Vedeno, Achkhoy-Martan and some others which, according to Arsakhanov, are "under strong political pressure of Dudayev's supporters". Dudayev's supporters launched a propaganda campaign under the slogan: "If you take part in the election to the State Duma, you give up Chechen sovereignty".

Perm Oblast Finalizes Electoral Slates

MK0411134495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Igor Lobanov from Perm: "List of Candidates for Deputy Has Been Made Public in Perm. Deceased Citizens Signed in Support of One Contender"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Perm Oblast Electoral Commission has completed the inspection of signatures in support of candidates for the four seats in the State Duma intended for Perm residents. The final list of candidates for deputy, containing 34 names, was made public on 31 October. About 20 more people failed to collect the required number of signatures in their support. The Sverdlovsk constituency enjoys the greatest popularity among those who aspire to become State Duma deputies — 11 people will fight for one deputy seat. The number of candidates registered in the Lenin, Kungur, and Berezniki constituencies is, respectively, 10, 7, and 6. The most prominent contenders are Viktor Pokhmelkin, Vladimir Kravtsov, and Vladimir Zelenin, present State Duma deputies from Perm Oblast; Nail Salakhov and Valeriy Fedorov, leaders of Perm city and oblast internal directorates; Irina Zalevskaya, chief editor of the newspaper FEDERATSIYA; and Viktor Stepankov, former general prosecutor of Russia and presently [Perm Oblast] deputy governor.

The political preferences of the contenders are as follows: Among Perm candidates for the State Duma, the largest number — four people — support the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. The Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] and "Russia Is Our Home" nominated in single-seat constituencies two people each; and one person was nominated from each of the blocs of the social democrats, "Power to the People!," "Russia's Choice," "Women of Russia," the "Congress of Russian Communities," "Communists — Working Russia — For the Soviet Union," and Stanislav Govorukhin's bloc.

The overwhelming majority of candidates are heads and chiefs of various kinds. The inspection of electoral signatures gave rise to some amusing incidents, too. For instance, one of the most "go-getting" contestants — Vladimir Zotin, deputy of the Perm Oblast Duma and the Oblast Legislative Assembly and the leader of local "Yabloko" supporters — has in fact fallen out of the race. Using a handwriting expert from the city internal affairs directorate, the Oblast Electoral Commission established that 70 percent of the signatures collected in his support were null and void. Mr. Zotin himself, who managed, virtually a few minutes before the deadline, to submit to the electoral commission new signatures — which have also been discarded — is inclined to regard what has happened to him as the intrigues of his rivals and is seeking justice through the courts. Another candidate — who, incidentally, is a legislative assembly deputy, too — also had the signatures of "dead souls" collected on his behalf: Several names of deceased persons were uncovered on the signature lists for Valentin Markovskiy. "Thanks" to one of the Perm candidates, the entire "Transformation of the Homeland" bloc could find itself in a rathe unpleasant situation: One of Perm's newspapers reported that Eduard Rossel's bloc has somehow included on its lists the name of Andrey Klimov, a rather well-known Perm entrepreneur and politician, who heads the Committee for Regional Policy and External Relations at the Legislative Assembly and is also running for the State Duma. After Mr. Klimov informed the Central Electoral Commission that he had nothing to do with the "transformers," the bloc was given back all of its lists.

Election Guidelines

Russia's Choice Not To Seek Special Duma Session

LD0311153495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov and Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 3 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's choice faction in the Duma gave up its intention to convene an extraordinary meeting of the State Duma on November 4. At that meeting deputies from Russia's Choice were going to introduce amendments to the law on election which would rule out situations such as developed as a result of the refusal of the Central Electoral Commission to register Yabloko election bloc. Sergey Yushenkov, Chairman of the Duma Committee on Defence, reported this to journalists on Friday.

He said this decision was passed at a meeting of the faction for the reason that the Supreme Court will most probably find actions of the Electoral Commission against Yabloko bloc unjustifiable and the problem will be eased.

Meanwhile, deputies of Russia's Choice are not giving up the intention to make changes in the law on election, Yushenkov said. They will also try to pass the law on public control over the election. He said the faction intends to raise these questions at a regular plenary meeting of the State Duma on November 10.

Khakamada, Nikonov Demand Amendment to Election Law

MK0511073195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "Irina Khakamada and Vyacheslav Nikonov Have Proposed Amendments to Law on the State Duma Election. Deputies Are Prepared To Appeal to the Constitutional Court"]

[FBIS Translated Text] State Duma deputies Irina Khakamada and Vyacheslav Nikonov lashed out at the law on the State Duma elections yesterday. In Mr. Nikonov's view, the law in its current version "undermines and destroys the principle of government by the people" laid down by the Constitution. In particular, the majority of Russian citizens residing outside the country are thereby deprived of their right to vote. Moreover, Mr. Nikonov believes that the responsibilities of the TsIK [Central Electoral Commission] stipulated by the law impart legislative and judicial functions to Nikolay Ryabov's agency. Mrs. Khakamada noted, in turn, that the existing proportional-majority electoral system actually hinders the formation of a parliament that represents the majority of voters.

Despite such fundamental claims, the deputies yesterday submitted a draft law on introducing amendments and addenda to the law on elections to the Federal Assembly's lower chamber. The draft law, in their opinion, does not alter the "conception" of the statutory act on State Duma elections. Most of the proposals do not affect the procedure of voting for the federal list. The Duma deputies insist that the "against all" [candidates] line be removed from the ballot paper. Moreover, it is proposed that the election be invalidated in the event that electoral blocs and associations "authorized to participate in the allocation of deputies' mandates obtain less than half the vote of the total turnout." As regards elections in single-seat constituencies, both Mrs. Khakamada and Mr. Nikonov insist on introducing a second round of voting. Explaining why the amendments to the election law are being introduced at the height of the election campaign, Irina Khakamada mentioned that she herself as well as Mr. Nikonov and Boris Zamay, a deputy and the third drafter of the amendments, had been consistent in voting against the current version of the election law.

In the event the Duma turns down the draft law on introducing amendments and addenda to the election law, Mr. Nikonov and Mrs. Khakamada intend to file a request with the Constitutional Court. The 90 signatures needed for that have already been collected from the deputies, Mrs. Khakamada said.

However, the possibility cannot be completely ruled out that the Constitutional Court will not be handling the State Duma election law at all. Numerous Duma deputies failed to be included in the "competitive portion" of the "competitive" electoral lists, and besides that, not all deputies elected in single-seat constituencies in 1993 feel up to repeating the success once achieved. Attempts to amend the election law, which could postpone the date of the elections, will undoubtedly be received with "hurrahs" by this category of deputies. Although neither Mrs. Khakamada nor Mr. Nikonov can be referred to as poor starters thus far, they could also be interested in a somewhat delayed electoral struggle: A little more time would come in handy for both "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc" (Vyacheslav Nikonov) and the "Common Cause" association (Irina Khakamada).

In any event, the move by Irina Khakamada and Vyacheslav Nikonov will quite possibly not be the only project of this kind.

Isakov: Duma 'Will Not Support' Proposal

LD0411173495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1402 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — There are no chances for prompt readjustment of the election law during the preparation for the parliamentary elections, said Vladimir Isakov, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for legislation and judiciary reform. "I am sure the Duma will not support the proposal of Russia's Choice Faction to amend the law on the election of the State Duma," Isakov told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

The amendment is aimed at providing for the election blocs the legal ground for altering federal lists while voters' signatures are being collected, prior to the registration in the Central Electoral Commission.

Isakov believes the State Duma will not back proposals of those deputies who intend to raise the question of lowering the requirement of five per cent of votes to qualify for the lower chamber of the parliament, Isakov believes.

Commenting on the plans of some part of parliamentarians who, in Isakov's opinion, are in the minority in the State Duma, Isakov noted that what happens on the political scene is shocking. He said that at first the elections were discredited by statements that criminals may find their way into the State Duma. Later deputies' privileges were discussed.

"Now it has been suggested that the elections will not be legitimate if a small number of election blocs make it to the Duma. It is forgotten that precisely those political forces that are not trusted by voters will remain outside the parliament," Isakov said.

These forces have now received an opportunity to slur the election law or even to postpone elections, Isakov believes. However, it is impermissible to change the rules of the game during the canvassing. The Duma Committee on legislation favours the stability of the legal base for the holding of the elections, otherwise their results will be questioned by all other participants in the election.

Forecasts & Commentary

Yavlinskiy Comments on Significance of Elections

LD0511184995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Yabloko party Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said he believed that the results of parliamentary elections would have enormous significance for the presidential election in 1996.

Yavlinskiy told INTERFAX that "if the future president can count on support from at least 100 State Duma deputies, his cooperation with this legislative body will be constructive and decisions made by the authorities will be likely to be carried out."

Yavlinskiy said he believed that the presidential election in Russia was regarded as "elections of a Tsar." He said he thought that the Russians would show big interest in the presidential election. "At least, my voters ask more questions about the presidential election than about the parliamentary ones," Yavlinskiy said.

Prospects for Gaydar's DVR 'Far From Radiant'

MM0111172195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 5

[Article by IZVESTIYA Analysis Center under the "Elections-95: Portrait of a Contender" rubric: "Reformers' Time and Burden. Will Russian Voters Opt for 'Russia's Democratic Choice — United Democrats'?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Motto** — "Freedom, ownership, legality."

Emblem — The "Bronze Horseman," sculpture by Falconet, memorial to Peter I.

Membership — approximately 10,000 people united in DVR [Russia's Democratic Choice] support groups in Russia's regions.

Brief history. The "Russia's Choice" bloc, which was created 15 June 1993, was originally planned to unite the majority of the political organizations of a democratic tendency which existed at that time. But Gavriil Popov's Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms, which was still quite influential at the time, did not associate itself with "Russia's Choice." Sergey Shakhray and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy went "their own ways." Nevertheless, by December 1993 the "Russia's Choice" bloc was the democrats' undisputed leader, and the majority of observers were predicting an election win for it. But the "Russia's Choice" party list got just 14.48 percent of the votes. This was regarded at the time as a defeat, despite considerable success in single-seat districts, thanks to which the "Russia's Choice" faction as a whole ended up the largest in the State Duma (78 seats).

The election misfire weakened the positions of "Russia's Choice" in the government. In January 1994 Premier V. Chernomyrdin made a number of statements which showed that at that moment he had stopped regarding the "Gaydar" policy of tough financial stabilization as the immovable priority. This predetermined the departure of Ye. Gaydar and B. Fedorov from the government.

The "Russia's Choice" leadership was once again faced with the question of consolidating democratic forces. Having been persuaded for the umpteenth time that a unified liberal-reformist movement was impossible in Russia without a strong organization, an action committee headed by Gaydar decided to create a party. Thus, the "Russia's Choice" electoral bloc became the basis of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party. The Political Council (chairman — Gaydar) and the Executive Committee headed by Oleg Boyko, 30-year-old president of the "Olbi" Concern, were elected at its founding congress (June 1994).

The "Russia's Choice" movement — the basic structure of the DVR bloc — retained its structure even after the party was created. Thus, two political organizations with common aims but with social bases on different scales found themselves in the same channel. There were two "choices," which, alas, did not always coincide. The tendency to delimit them was clearly manifested in the question of their attitude to the executive's actions in Chechnya.

While regarding Chechnya as an inalienable part of Russia, at the same time the DVR believes that the actions of the authorities in restoring constitutional order in Chechnya were extremely clumsy and that the use of force was hasty, unprepared, and unprofessional. Use was not made of the potential that existed for economic and political pressure in conjunction with talks to return Chechnya to the constitutional field without bloodshed. The DVR Political Council appealed to the Russian president and government to refrain from sending in the troops, but it did not receive a reply.

After the commencement of military operations the "Russia's Choice" faction submitted three draft documents to the Duma which would make it possible to deprive the government of legitimate grounds to continue the war: amendments to the Law on Defense directly banning the use of the Armed Forces on Russian territory without the introduction of martial law and a state of emergency; amendments to the Law on the Budget for the first quarter banning the funding of military operations in Chechnya without the introduction of a state of emergency; and a Law on Openness whereby the military command would be obliged to publish without delay lists of servicemen lost. The drafts were rejected, above all, by votes from Communists, Agrarians, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

The stand taken by the faction, which demanded the immediate cessation of combat operations and the commencement of peace talks, was sharply at variance with B. Yeltsin's actions and statements. In February 1995 Gaydar was forced to declare that "Russia's Choice" did not support the president's policy and would not support the nomination of his candidacy for a second presidential term.

Admittedly, this position was substantially amended as early as March: "We support every correct step that he takes...." But the figure of the president was already swaying on the pedestal of the DVR's preferences. The party's switch if not to direct opposition, then to a footing of "conditional support" for the president had a quite painful effect on its condition, exacerbating internal conflicts. In particular, O. Boyko, chairman of its Executive Committee, left the party because he disagreed with the criticism of the authorities' actions in Chechnya.

At that moment the special features of the political style of the DVR leadership headed by Gaydar manifested themselves most graphically. It seemed to many people that, proceeding from populist considerations, it would be advantageous to take one of the following extreme stands before the next elections: for the government's resignation or in support of a war "for territorial integrity." In contrast with this the DVR faction put responsibility for political stability in first place. In the belief that the government's resignation would clear the way for extremist forces, the DVR leadership, while continuing to oppose the war, at the same time refused to vote for no-confidence in the government. At the same time the DVR faction sought an expression of no-confidence in the "power" ministers, but that resolution was rejected by votes from Communists, Agrarians, and Zhirinovskiyites.

The struggle over the question of no-confidence in the government increased the exodus of "Russia's Choice" deputies both to more "left-wing" factions and to progovernment factions. On the whole, G. Burbulis, B. Fedorov, E. Pamfilova, A. Kozyrev, L. Ponomarev, G. Yakunin, M. Poltoranin, B. Denisenko, and others left Gaydar's faction at various times and for various reasons. A. Chubays "froze" his involvement in party activity until the elections.

The crisis was exacerbated by the emergence of "Russia Is Our Home." Some of the DVR's grassroots and regional organizations swayed toward Chernomyrdin's "home." Appeals to unite all democratic forces in an election bloc started to be heard once again. Through the mouth of B. Zolotukhin, member of its Political Council, the DVR proposed concluding an agreement on the ethics of the election campaign and the abandonment of competition in single-seat districts. It was emphasized that the DVR was prepared to give up seats and to conduct the election campaign jointly in those districts where colleagues in the coalition have a better chance. As regards the 1996 presidential election, here it was proposed to reach an agreement: The right to name the candidate will go to the bloc which gets most votes in the parliamentary elections. Alas, neither this idea nor Gaydar's proposal directly addressed to Yavlinskiy to create a single bloc was realized in forms or on a scale making it possible to speak of a worthy response to the challenge from left-radical and extremist forces. As a result, the potential 20-percent electorate of the parties of the democratic wing ended up split and weakened. Nevertheless, several parties and organizations — the DVR, the Peasant Party (Yu. Chernichenko), the Russian Party of Social Democracy (A. Yakovlev), the Congress of National Associations of Russia, "Military for Democracy," "Women for Solidarity," the Soldiers' Mothers Movement — signed an agreement on cooperation in the election campaign, thereby creating the "Russia's Democratic Choice — United Democrats" electoral bloc, open to all political organizations of a democratic orientation.

Leaders. Yegor Gaydar. Born in Moscow in 1956. Grandson of the well-known Soviet writer Arkadiy Gaydar (Golikov) and son of Rear Admiral Timur Gaydar, journalist and writer; on his mother's side — grandson of the writer Pavel Bazhov. Graduate of the Economics Faculty of Moscow State University, then a postgraduate student (supervisor of studies — Academician S. Shatalin). During 1980-1987 he worked at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Systems Research and then at the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics and Forecasting of Scientific and Technical Progress (Shatalin's department). Doctor of economic sciences. In 1987 Ivan Frolov, the new editor of the journal KOMMUNIST, who sharply altered the course of the CPSU's theoretical organ in the spirit of the ideas of perestroyka, suggested that Gaydar head the economics department of the journal, which at once started publishing articles of a promarket trend. Many future colleagues of Gaydar in the reform government became contributors to the journal. On becoming PRAVDA's chief editor in 1990, I. Frolov appointed Gaydar head of that newspaper's economic policy department, but the climate in the CPSU's central organ proved inimical to both of them, and Gaydar soon returned to scientific work. In the spring of 1991 he became director of the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transitional Period, which was set up on his initiative and which he heads at present.

In 1991, however, he did not manage to return to science from politics for long. At the time of the August putsch Gaydar led the collective of staffers of his institute to the barricades of the White House's defenders. In September 1991 Gaydar headed a working group of economists set up under the Russian Federation State Council to draw up draft reforms in the Russian economy. In November 1991, after Yeltsin approved his program, Gaydar was appointed deputy chairman of the government for questions of economic policy. He was minister of economics and minister of finance in the government headed by Yeltsin. From 15 June through 14 December 1992 he was acting chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers.

The stabilization program proposed by Gaydar at the end of 1991 was designed to cover three years. In fact, he was able to implement it within the government for just 11 months, but even during that time he did not have full power in view of the fierce resistance to the policy of reforms on the part of the former Supreme Soviet, which, in accordance with the constitution then in force, was able to interfere in the functions of the executive. Gaydar noticed a serious "softening" of financial policy under pressure from parliament as early as June 1992, and the well-known economist Andrey Illarionov maintained that the tough financial policy was implemented for just 18 days following the liberalization of prices 2 January 1992.

If you consider the fact that this liberalization did not at the time affect the prices of fuel and energy sources (Gaydar later acknowledged that as a mistake), did not apply to rent or the tariffs for municipal services, and permitted partial regulation of retail food prices, then it should be acknowledged that there was no classic "shock therapy" in Russia. In the unceasing arguments over reforms this gives grounds for one side to ascribe all the failures to an excessively tough financial and credit policy, and for the other side to ascribe them to an insufficiently tough policy. A more general question lies behind this: Are the reforms themselves or their belated and inconsistent nature the cause of the calamities?

But, given any conscientious approach, it has to be acknowledged that "Gaydar's team" took on the leadership of Russia's economy in conditions where the former system had totally collapsed and it was completely impossible to preserve it. The Russian currency had lost the functions of money, and no one wanted to sell anything for rubles. Universal barterization, which began in 1990, had severed the links between enterprises and erected economic borders not only between the republics of the Soviet Union but also between Russia's oblasts. The authorities in the age of stagnation had squandered the easily accessible export oil stocks with no benefit to the country. Afterward the "perestroyka" government of N. Ryzhkov not only expended the existing gold currency reserves but also increased the foreign debt to a level at which its further growth by virtue of mounting interest became ungovernable. In the spring of 1991, avoiding the words "price liberalization," V. Pavlov's cabinet started a "planned increase" of prices, which at once became spontaneous and by the end of the year had reduced citizens' savings to one-third of their value or, in other words, nominally took away from them two-thirds of their savings (nominally, for even earlier the savings had actually been devalued not by two-thirds but entirely in view of the total disappearance of almost all commodities from the stores).

Many people were predicting a hungry and cold winter for Russia. In that situation the simple maintenance of the functioning of the economy and the restoration of governability on the basis of new, economic methods marked a huge, unexpected success. Whatever assessment is made of his achievements and mistakes, Gaydar proved to be one of Russia's few politicians who managed not only to advance programs and slogans but also to do something very real to organize a new life on the ruins of the old. It is no coincidence that almost three years after the end of his six-month stint as head of government the Russian reforms are still described as the "Gaydar reforms" by both their defenders and their critics.

During the night of 3-4 October 1993 Gaydar demonstrated for a second time his ability to make a firm choice in an extreme situation. Two weeks previously a presidential edict had appointed him first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, and during this second stint in the government (for four months) he channeled his main efforts into reviving the policy of financial stabilization. But at the moment of the armed revolt by the opposition, which smashed up City Hall and Ostankino, unleashed increasing bloodshed, and brought the country to the verge of civil war, Gaydar exceeded his functions as vice premier for the economy. Supporters of democracy came to the Moscow City Soviet in response to his television appeal. The choice of venue with no direct contact with the rebels made that "stand" a peaceful one, but it did not make it any less impressive for that: Everyone saw that there were many times more opponents of the revolt than supporters, and this largely predetermined the further course of events.

The bloc's other leaders — Sergey Kovalev (imprisoned, in total, for over 10 years for his rights campaigning activity) and Lidiya Fedoseva-Shukshina (over 15 years in leading roles in feature movies) — are more than well enough known to the voters. Not to mention Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev, the ideologue of perestroyka.

The election platform of "Russia's Democratic Choice — United Democrats" is fully in keeping with the concept of the "New Course" expounded by Gaydar. By crowning this name with a question mark, the author modestly distanced himself from Roosevelt's New Deal and also, as it were, acknowledged the doubts of a considerable proportion of his fellow citizens. But the leader of "Russia's Choice" is in no doubt: The state's colossal efforts are incapable of raising up the country. On the contrary, only a reduction in the state's direct interference in the management of absolutely everything will free up space for organic development. A "Russian miracle" is possible — it only has to be provided with normal starting conditions.

No one can dispute the fact that the country has changed beyond recognition. For better or for worse? According to Gaydar, the answer depends on whether the reforms are continued — "not from where they have stopped today but from where they started to slide in the middle of 1992." In continuing the reforms, the platform's authors say, it is necessary to reform the system of state management and the tax system, encourage Russian and foreign investments, support small business, reduce the share of state expenditure in the GNP and the share of defense spending in the budget, form an efficient structure of ownership in the countryside, etc.

In the social sphere the DVR is opposed to excessive state tutelage and advocates increasing the share of ownership by citizens themselves and shaping a living standard worthy of them. At the same time the bloc insists on the state's responsibility for providing citizens with a wide range of social guarantees. In votes on specific issues — on the budget, above all — the DVR faction in the Duma invariably champions priority for social interests over "power" interests.

According to the party's program, Russia's federal system presupposes the integrity of the Russian Federation; a combination of the interests of the regions and the center; the political self-organization of civilian society; and equality for all the nationalities inhabiting each territory. At the same time the bloc declares war on aggressive nationalism, chauvinism, racism, xenophobia, and separatism.

Like many other parties and blocs, the DVR advocates radical military reform, believing that the Armed Forces must be "outside politics."

Expert Appraisal. Analysis. Prognosis.

The DVR's dramatic transformation on the way from a movement allied with the "reform government" to a party in moderate opposition to the president's present policy renders the bloc's election prospects far from radiant. As the DVR has distanced itself from the government, fellow travelers have started to leave the party. In addition to them, the DVR has lost the support of federal power centers and gone out of favor with local administrations, compared with its best times, as well as losing the sponsorship of a number of powerful financial structures and a significant part of the democratic electorate as a whole.

The party and its allies are paying for their former proximity to the power summit, and in the eyes of quite a considerable part of the population its leader bears the chief responsibility for the reforms' costs. The DVR will hardly be able to repeat the results of December 1993. Some of the DVR's well-wishers regard even the 5-percent target as a level that will be hard to beat.

If successful, the DVR will form a small faction in the Duma whose significance will be determined by its relations with the "post-December" executive and also with financial circles in Russia and abroad. If the present power is preserved in the form of an alliance between the centrist-liberal bureaucracy and the "liberals" of "civilized" business, then the DVR's chief role will be transformed into that of providing ideological support for the reforms, giving the cabinet distanced support, and sharing responsibility with it without holding the real levers of power. At the same time it cannot be ruled out that "Russia's Choice" will drift away from the principles of classical liberalism toward social liberalism. If there is a radical change of scenery and the bloc of forces of a left-patriotic orientation accedes to power, the DVR will switch to a policy of consistent opposition to the policy of revenge.

Preserved as a movement and a party, the DVR will be able to reckon that in the future the actions of its leaders, the "kamikaze reformers" of early 1992, will appear before the mass consciousness in a more realistic light. Can they reckon on a historically considered assessment of their efforts by a considerable proportion of Russians right now, particularly in the remaining short time until the elections? It is hard to reckon on this because, apart from everything else, Gaydar is now renouncing, as before, even modest doses of "healthy populism," without which it is hard to imagine political success. He evidently believes that actions, not words, must speak in favor of his party and bloc. But, as is known, words are also action.

Gromov Interviewed on Election, Foreign Ministry

MM0111130295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Boris Gromov, leader of "My Fatherland" Electoral Association, by Pavel Anokhin; place and date not given: "Election-95: General Gromov on Election Offensive" — first paragraph is ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our interlocutor is the leader of the "My Fatherland" Electoral Association, Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel General Boris Gromov, military adviser to the Foreign Ministry. According to his colleagues and fellow employees, he is a purposeful, strong-willed man, equally willing to take risks and gamble and to be extremely cautious in his actions and in decision-making. That is probably why there are a host of highly contradictory rumors and stories going round about him. He was on three occasions dispatched to the Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces in Afghanistan, where he served as chief of staff, division commander, and representative of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, and commanded the 40th Army. In this regard some people speak of him as a tough officer, while others are touched by his manifest love of peace and humanity. You sometimes get the impression that Boris Gromov embodies the contradictions of our times. But judge for yourselves.

[Anokhin] Boris Vsevolodovich, I would like to start our conversation by asking what is probably a standard question: Why do you want to get into the State Duma, what do you intend to do there?

[Gromov] I intend to engage in lawmaking.... As a specialist I would like to legislatively resolve a number of issues pertaining to Russia's military and economic security and the organizational development of the Armed Forces. I hope via parliament to be able to provide considerable assistance for "Afghan vets" and now for "Chechen vets," who have been cast to the will of fate.

The "My Fatherland" movement in close cooperation with the "Reform" Foundation has a serious package of proposals on higher education. The current situation in the country and the ill-conceived nature of reform is having an adverse effect on the Russian educational system, which is still one of the best in the world. We intend to support teachers, who are today suffering a similar fate to officers. The future of the country depends on both groups, but both teachers and military men are now equally destitute and the prestige of both professions has been reduced to zero.

[Anokhin] You head the "My Fatherland" electoral association, but you have at the same time remained a serving general. Would it not be better to follow Aleksandr Lebed's example and resign?

[Gromov] Why, for whose sake? I intend to serve the Armed Forces and prevent their collapse. The Army is in a grave position today — there is no money for food, fuel, uniforms, or housing construction. Regrettably, there is the prospect of the Army's getting bogged down under the current leadership in internal wrangling and losing all prestige in society. Or else an excuse will be found to come to the assistance of Tajikistan, but on a larger scale.

[Anokhin] How would you start to change the organizational development of the Russian Armed Forces?

[Gromov] By reviewing Russia's military doctrine. It is necessary to clearly outline where we should concentrate our strategic efforts: namely at sea, underwater, in the skies, in the west, in the south? How can we organize the Armed Forces without clarifying this? We must define our position without fail on the use of the Army within the country. My view is that the Armed Forces should only perform the mission of defending and protecting Russia from outside, but not within the country.

Ideally we should be professionals, but this depends on many factors, for instance on the state's ability to maintain a particular Army: A huge amount of money is needed for the upkeep of an army like ours....

[Anokhin] Recently you yourself were deputy defense minister. Incidentally, what were your duties, which Defense Ministry mistakes and successes can you lay at your own door?

[Gromov] At the Defense Ministry I tackled questions of the near abroad. I think that I promoted in practice the treaty process within the CIS and the creation of the collective security system, albeit not in its entirety. At any rate, over the last three years important treaties have been signed regulating the social problems of CIS servicemen, questions of training and material-technical cooperation. As for mistakes, I do not have the kind of post where I could dramatically influence decision-making.

[Anokhin] Perhaps you do not always avail yourself of the possibilities open to you? According to the Defense Ministry, during departmental conferences on Chechnya you never said a word against the use of troops in the republic and generally kept quiet. Hence your criticism of the Chechen operation that came much later is seen as a desire to earn beneficial political capital...

[Anokhin] There was no Defense Ministry Collegium session on Chechnya, none of the members of the Collegium was informed of the introduction of troops to Chechnya. At any rate this subject was not discussed in my presence — everything was prepared on the quiet, in secret to make sure that no one knew. I flatly deny any talk of my "silent presence" at departmental conferences on the Chechen crisis. Being fundamentally opposed to the use of the Army within the country, I was flatly opposed to troops being brought into Chechnya.

[Anokhin] Are you "for" or "against" the introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya in the present situation?

[Gromov] I am opposed to a state of emergency. You first need to have the relevant forces and weapons in order to introduce such a state. Moreover, everyone who has his head screwed on right realizes that nothing good will come of a state of emergency in this case, it will only drive the ailment deeper still.

[Anokhin] But in your speeches you often advocate the introduction of strict order in the country.

[Gromov] I support order but it is necessary to take into consideration the conditions for, place, and aims of establishing that order. As for the present situation, Russia needs democratic order — a law-governed life, respect for human rights, a mixed economy, and all forms of land use....

[Anokhin] Are you more of a politician or a military man?

[Gromov] I would say 50:50.... I would say that I am a "military politician."

[Anokhin] What is your understanding of the slogan "Military Outside Politics"?

[Gromov] You cannot give an unambiguous answer to this question. If you are talking about an individual military man, he must be outside politics when on active military service. If you are talking about the Armed Forces as a whole, that is hardly entirely feasible — such an important state instrument as the army cannot remain outside politics. Particularly in our time and our country when everyone, no matter what post they hold, is involved in practice in a particular policy.

[Anokhin] The cavalry charge of military men running for the State Duma this year might be an example of that.

[Gromov] That confirms the disorder reigning in the country. But only those who made the biggest fuss about the army having to be outside politics drove officers into politics.

[Anokhin] You get the impression of a split in the officer corps. Can we expect the military to find a common language after the parliamentary elections and start to act on a corporate basis?

[Gromov] The military do not speak several languages, they always have one. The fact that politicians are forcing the military to take different sides is another matter. Nevertheless, there is no split, there are diverse approaches, varying understanding by the tens of thousands of officers of what is going on in Russia and its Armed Forces. I hope that military men with common sense who are truly concerned with the organizational development of the Armed Forces rather than with talk of reform will of course join forces. But this should not necessarily be linked to the elections — everything depends on the army leadership, on who gives the orders.

[Anokhin] You do not even try to conceal your hostility toward Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, speaking disparagingly of his professional and business qualities, and when talking to journalists you allude to certain influential people who back in the early nineties turned you down for the post of defense minister in favor of Grachev. But it is well known that Pavel Sergeyevich recommended you as deputy defense minister and virtually took you under his protection. Let us remember, this was at a time when you, one of the official signatories to the "Word to the People," were charged with complicity in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE]. Do you not feel awkward today when challenging the defense minister?

[Gromov] No one, including Pavel Grachev, took me under their protection. There was no need of that since I did not do anything illegal like some people in October 1993 or in Chechnya.

As for my involvement in the SCSE, in December 1991 for me the investigation ended with the general prosecutor making official apologies. As for the "Word to the People," I think even now that it was quite correct.

With regard to my relationship with Pavel Grachev I can say that our positions diverged once and for all in October 1993. I did not attend in principle the Defense Ministry Collegium session that decided on the troops siding with the president in the confrontation with the parliament.

[Anokhin] There is a popular saying: Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are. Everyone knows that you have a close, long-standing friendship with Iosif Kobzon. At the same time reports have appeared in the mass media recently of his involvement in the mafia and links with the "Jap." Are you not afraid that this will damage your image and political career?

[Gromov] No, I am not since everything that is being done to Iosif Davidovich is an act that was well-planned by Moscow and is now being carried out. Everything now being said about Kobzon and his links with the mafia is utter nonsense, malicious slander.

[Anokhin] You are bidding for the role of leader of the "Afghan" movement and are at the same time accused of splitting it.

[Gromov] I would like to straightaway remove this question — there has been, is no, and I hope there will be no split in the "Afghan" movement. The fact is that the state has not taken internationalist soldiers under its tutelage but has cast them to the will of fate. And the "Afghan vets" have begun to set up their own parties and movements and form regional groups. Eventually the Afghan Veterans' Union emerged. However, Russia now has about 120 scattered "Afghan" associations, which no one is looking after. Nine of them were responsible for the emergence of the Union of Internationalist Veterans, comprising people who have been involved in various wars, those in Korea and Vietnam, say, not only in Afghanistan. Needless to say, there is not even any question of any confrontation, every effort is being made for consolidation.

[Anokhin] In that case how are we to view the occasional "set-tos" between the leaders of the various "Afghan" groupings?

[Gromov] "Set-tos" also occur in the state at the highest level; and in this case it is ordained that we should follow their example. Many "internationalists" today are forgotten by the state although they are in a disastrous position and need moral, financial, and psychological assistance. Among them, just as among all people, there are good, honest people as well as those involved in shady deals. In any case they are a source of great anguish to me.

[Anokhin] What are you doing in your new field — at the Russian Foreign Ministry?

[Gromov] Officially I have been assigned to the Russian Foreign Ministry as military adviser to the minister. This post did not previously exist. At the Foreign Ministry I am tackling the same issues as I did at the Defense Ministry — relations with the near abroad. Right now the main consultations concern the Balkan crisis. I see my mission as being to prepare analytical material on military-political problems. Thus, documents have been prepared on the implementation of the CFE Treaty, on the plans for NATO's eastward expansion. The North Atlantic bloc patently wants to strengthen its position in the region. Many important decisions are being made behind Russia's back, and we are frankly not being taken into consideration.

I think that the West is thus, on the one hand, demonstrating its lack of respect for history and for Russia, which proposed abandoning the bloc confrontation, and, on the other, opening the way to a cold war. Russia, which has lost its allies and friends, regrettably, now has a limited chance of impeding NATO expansion. We must pursue our own policy of seeking peace in the region.

Skokov Cited on KRO's Prospects, Yeltsin, Yabloko

MK0511122195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "Yuriy Skokov Has No Faith in Boris Yeltsin. KRO Head Argues He Never Formed Electoral Alliance With CPRF"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking about the KRO's [Congress of Russian Communities] campaign prospects, Yuriy Skokov voiced confidence that his association is going to clear the five-percent hurdle. The "Congress of Russian Communities" hopes to win no fewer votes than "[Russia Is] Our Home" or the Communists. However, in the words of the KRO leader, the main campaign task is to form a massive "Congress of Russian Communities" sociopolitical movement. Yuriy Skokov announced with satisfaction that more than 460,000 people are now in the KRO's ranks.

Yuriy Skokov, in his words, does not believe that Boris Yeltsin is going to offer him the post of prime minister. In the KRO leader's opinion, in order for the president to make such an offer, he "must step over himself, and this is unlikely to happen." "Besides, I, too, would have to step over a certain barrier," Yuriy Skokov stressed. Commenting on the president's recent praise for him, Mr. Skokov advanced two versions. The first is that by praising someone, the president is actually telling his entourage "go and kill." According to the second version, the president was struck by the fact that Mr. Skokov was the only one of those who left Mr. Yeltsin's team and "did not think he could throw stones at the president," and he has due respect for him as the "popularly elected head of a great state." At the same time, in Yuriy Skokov's view, Boris Yeltsin "has exhausted his potential," and he generally "did not cope with his duties."

Commenting on the events surrounding the registration of "Yabloko" and "Derzhava," Yuriy Skokov announced that when verifying the signatures, the TsIK had many similar complaints against the KRO. "We went through the procedure in a disciplined manner and without emotions," Mr. Skokov stressed. In his words, the law on the election of State Duma deputies is really not very good, "but then it was 'Yabloko' that passed it."

Kremlin Mailbag Reveals High Interest in NDR

MM0311142395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "What People Write to the Kremlin About: Voters Most Interested in NDR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An exclusive report that the Russian Presidential Administration for Work With Citizens' Appeals gave to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI notes that of the dozens of parties, blocs, ands movements that entered the election campaign only 11 political adversaries engage voters' attention. Seventy-nine percent of letters mention the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] electoral association. Analysis shows that this preference is due less to voters' sympathies or antipathies than to the authors' desire to inform the country's government of their personal problems on whose resolution their political preferences are made dependent.

In all the NDR is mentioned 789 times (with 129 positive opinions about the association and 159 negative, while in 501 cases the authors took a neutral stance or were undecided). The CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] accounted for 89 letters (the ratio of positive, negative, and neutral opinions was as follows: 9:30:50); the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] — 47 (8:11:28); the "Ivan Rybkin Bloc" — 23 (3:17:13); "Russia's Democratic Choice" — 20 (2:7:11);

the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] — eight (1:3:4); and "Yabloko" — six (1:2:3).

Letters also refer to the Democratic Party (four times), the "Derzhava" movement (seven), "Forward, Russia!" (five), and "Women of Russia" (four). So far the assessments of their activity are only negative.

Therefore only the opinions voiced by letter writers about the NDR can be considered sufficient for analysis. The mailbag from a number of regions reveals considerable divergences from the average Russia-wide ratio of positive to negative views — 4:5. Thus, NDR supporters are seen to outnumber opponents among letter writers from the republics of Kabardino-Balkaria, Dagestan, and Komi, Krasnoyarsk Kray, Vladimir and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, and St. Petersburg. At the same time negative views exceed positive views by a factor of two or more in mail from Voronezh, Irkutsk, Kaluga, Kostroma, Lipetsk, Orel, Pskov, and Rostov Oblasts.

The view is often heard that the indifferent attitude of authorities at all levels to people's daily concerns is "involuntarily prompting them to vote for the Zyuganovites and Zhirinovskiyites."

Some letter writers try to suggest election methods to the NDR leadership. They think that the association should adopt simple election slogans aimed at molding an image of the NDR that appeals to most of the population. The view is often heard that in this respect the NDR is losing out to its rivals at the moment. The association's supporters are also concerned that the reformist politicians have not drawn practical conclusions from the 1993 election results. Primarily, as to the need to pay more attention to the "boondocks" where, this time too, the LDPR, the CPRF, and the APR are notably active.

"Only Communists are coming round our homes canvassing. I would like to ask you: Why does the NDR not have any canvassers? After all, we old people can't go out," pensioner M. Kiselev from Pyatigorsk writes, for instance.

So that, according to the report from the Russian Federation Presidential Administration for Work with Citizens' Appeals, is how the NDR looks in the middle of the election campaign in the view of letter-writing voters. As you know, sociologists are today naming the Communists, "Yabloko," and the NDR as election favorites. Any mailbag is unrepresentative and cannot lay claim to the accuracy of sociological findings. So the fact that even the mailbag illustrates interest in the NDR and certain political sympathies for this movement is all the more indicative.

Yabloko, Democratic Choice Lead in Poll

*LD0411212895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1535 GMT 4 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — A total of 11.6 percent of Muscovites would vote for the Yabloko bloc were the elections held this weekend, sources at the Public Opinion Fund told INTERFAX Saturday. The fund questioned 501 Muscovites from November 1 through 3.

Yabloko is followed by the "Democratic Choice of Russia-United Democrats" bloc (7.8 percent of respondents) and the "Our Home Is Russia" Movement (5.8 percent).

Some 5.4 percent of Muscovites are ready to vote for the Russian Communist Party. The Party of Workers' Self-Government and the Congress of Russian Communities would get 2.8 percent and 2.4 percent each. The "Women of Russia" Movement is supported by 1.4 percent of Muscovites. The "Forward, Russia" Movement and the "Common Cause" Bloc are each supported by 1 percent of respondents.

Other blocs gained less than 1 percent of votes.

A total of 19 percent of the electors do not plan to chose Duma deputies, and 21.4 percent have not made a final decision.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 5 Nov

LD0511094995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 11 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 5 (ITAR-TASS) — The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper in its today's comment on the presidential and parliamentary elections which Georgia holds today predicts that their outcome will have a cardinal impact on the evolution of democracy in Georgia.

The IZVESTIYA daily says the streets of Georgia are inundant with portraits of candidates for president and parliament, with 48 parties and nine blocs in the electoral race.

Presidency is contested by six aspirants. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze had the lead in the recent opinion polls, with 65 per cent of the respondents wanting to see him president. His main challenger Dzhumber Patiashvili is trailing in the polls with 17.5 per cent.

Early results of the elections will be out by midnight today.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA daily publishes results of its poll which explored attitudes towards the upcoming November 7 anniversary of the 1917 revolution.

Thirty-one per cent of 600 polled Moscovites think the Bolshevik revolution brought a fair and humane social system.

Twenty-nine per cent of the respondents were of the view that the revolution accounted for Russia's lagging behind most of prosperous nations.

Seventeen per cent see the revolution as the greatest tragedy for Russia, and 23 per cent were uncertain in their outlook.

The newspaper itself described the revolution as the most unexpected occurrence in the Russian history.

The newspaper cites documents and reminiscencies of witnesses which suggest that the October 25 upheaval was simply unnoticed in Petrograd, then the capital of Russia.

The city's movie houses, theatres, restaurants and transport were in a usual busy routine, and only the next day brought to the public the news of the event of "global historical importance".

Seventy years later Boris Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow Communist Party city committee, had the floor at the festive plenum of the Communist Party. Both its general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and the public overlooked that event again, KOMSOMOLSAKA PRAVDA says, adding apprehensively that one should watch out not to miss what November 7 ahead may be pregnant with.

Russian conservative daily TRUD says November 7 remains a milestone date which revives woe for victims of the revolutionary upheaval for some people, is a rallying date for others and an ordinary day off for still others.

The newspaper cites views of State Duma members on what the 1917 Revolution was to Russia.

State Duma deputy chairwoman Alevtina Fedulova, of the Women of Russia faction, finds the revolution "a grandious event", while two leaders of the Yabloko bloc see the date as "simply a weekend".

Liberal priest deputy Gleb Yakunin said the revolution anniversary is "a day of woe, Russia's tragedy, a continuation of the day of memory of victims of political repressions".

The pro-communist SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA daily gives ample space to letters to the editor from partisans of the revolution as "a test for political positions and outlooks of individuals or peoples, and of huge geopolitical regions of the world".

Reportage on Russian Reaction to Rabin Assassination

Chernomyrdin Pays Tribute at Funeral

LD0611150495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEL AVIV, November 6 (ITAR-TASS) — The tragic death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has shaken the world and reverberated in the hearts of millions of people, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at the funeral of the slain premier at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl cemetery on Monday.

Speaking on behalf of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and all people of Russia, Chernomyrdin conveyed condolences to the family of the late prime minister and the people of Israel.

"It is the deep grief that has brought us here today. The life of an outstanding person who has dedicated himself to creating an atmosphere of peace, good-neighbourliness and cooperation in the Middle East has stopped," he said.

The Russian premier expressed the hope that the peace process in the Middle East will continue and Rabin's followers led by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will advance his cause.

Yeltsin Telegrams Condolences to Peres

LD0511171695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 5 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent Israel's Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a telegram expressing his condolences on the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who was killed by a Jewish right-wing extremist in Tel Aviv late on Saturday.

"I was deeply saddened by the news of the death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as a result of a villainous assassination. It stopped the life of an outstanding Israeli statesman whose name will for ever go down in history," the president said.

He condemned the terrorist act as "an attempt to disrupt the movement to peace and once again plunge the Middle East into the abyss of sufferings and bloodshed."

At the same time, the Russian leader expressed the confidence that "the Middle East is not destined to always remain in the vicious circle of violence and terror."

Following is the full text of President Yeltsin's telegram:

"I was deeply saddened by the news of the death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as a result of a villainous assassination. It stopped the life of an outstanding Israeli statesman whose name will for ever go down in history. He was a man who showed great boldness in launching the peace process with the Palestinians and who believed that the Middle East is not destined to always remain in the vicious circle of violence and terror," the president said.

"The assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin is an attempt to disrupt the movement to peace and once again plunge the Middle East into the abyss of sufferings and bloodshed. I am convinced that this will not happen — favourable tendencies started by Yitzhaq Rabin will prove to be stronger than extremists' designs.

"Yitzhaq Rabin's peacekeeping activity and foresight have won recognition both in Russia and the whole world. We highly appreciate his contribution to the development of friendly Russian-Israeli relations.

"While expressing my condolences to the family of the assassinated and his next of kin, all Israeli people in connection with this tragedy, I nevertheless remain confident that the cause to which Yitzhaq Rabin dedicated his life will continue."

Gorbachev Sends Condolences to Israel

LD0511214395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — Ex-president of the former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev has passed his condolences over the tragic death of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Israeli Embassy in Moscow.

The press service of the Gorbachev Foundation told INTERFAX that the condolences had been addressed to Yitzhaq Rabin's family and relatives, to Shim'on Peres, and to the government and people of Israel. Gorbachev writes that he personally knew Yitzhaq Rabin as an outstanding statesman and that he highly appreciated the efforts made by Israel's prime minister and government to promote the peace process in the Middle East and restore normal relations between the people of Israel and Palestine.

Gorbachev also expressed confidence that the Israeli government will continue to pursue the peace policy which is supported by all those campaigning for peace. He condemned the terrorist act and urged the world community to unite efforts in the struggle against the growing danger of international terrorism.

Chernomyrdin 'Stunned' by Assassination

LD0511174995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Report over video by unidentified correspondent, including recorded comments by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin; from the "Today" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Tatyana Mitkova] The Russian prime minister was the first to go to the Israeli embassy in Moscow today to express his condolences and sign the condolences book.

[Correspondent] [video shows VIktor Chernomyrdin and entourage arriving and being received at embassy, signing book, interview outside building] The Israeli embassy in Moscow is in mourning, the state flag is at half mast. There are few visitors, since according to Jewish tradition condolences are expressed only after the funeral. Those who were not aware of this were gently asked to come back on Tuesday 7 November. An exception was made for Russian prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The prime minister's car entered the embassy compound at 1545 local time. Chernomyrdin was greeted by Mrs. Aliza Shenhar, the Israeli ambassador in Moscow. The prime minister conveyed to her condolences from President Yeltsin and his own personal condolences. After a brief conversation, during which the ambassador told Viktor Chernomyrdin the details of what had happened, the prime minister wrote a message on the first, as yet untouched, page of the condolences book.

[Chernomyrdin] I am stunned, simply stunned. I am stunned precisely by the fact that a man who gave absolutely everything to bring about peace, who fought for peace, who in many respects defused the situation in the Middle East, who did everything...[sentence unfinished] We have met twice this year, and his chief concern was with matters pertaining to peace. This is a further indication that extremism and terrorism are an evil against which we must all unite, absolutely all of us, in order to eradicate it. One cannot do it alone. [passage omitted]

Shumeyko Condemns Assassination

LD0511160495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 5 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko sent Israeli acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a message of condolences in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

"I am shocked by this horrible killing," Shumeyko said in the message relayed to ITAR-TASS by the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament.

He described Rabin's killing as an "untimely loss" and praised the Israeli prime minister as a "leader who won the respect of millions of people throughout the world and had the highest authority in modern politics."

Shumeyko stressed that Rabin was a man of "outstanding political foresight" who "made a great personal contribution to the successful advancement of the Middle East peace process."

"I am convinced that violence cannot solve political problems, no matter how acute or difficult they might be. I believe that extremists' attempts to once again draw the Middle East into a bloody conflict are doomed to failure," he said.

Chief Rabbi of Russia Denounces Murder

LD0511220195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Congress of Jewish Religious Congregations of Russia has expressed condolences to the people of Israel on the occasion of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's murder. As Adolf Shayevich, the chief rabbi of Russia, said today, the whole peace process in the Near East has been threatened. Rabin's policy was not to everyone's liking, but in any case murder is not the way to resolve problems. Extremism never does any good. That way is impermissible especially for the Jews, the rabbi stressed. He said that on 6 November, on the day of the funeral of Yitzhaq Rabin, in Moscow's Choral Synagogue there will be funeral prayers and the funeral candle will be lit.

Mufti Pays Tribute to 'Fighter for Peace'

LD0511221095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 5 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — [Passage omitted: covering reaction to murder of Rabin from Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin and Chief Rabbi of Russia] Condolences to the people of Israel were also expressed by other public and religious organizations of Russia, in particular on behalf of the Muslims by Shaykh Ravil Gaynutdin, mufti of the Central European region of Russia.

"The Muslims of Russia are deeply shocked by the evil murder of Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, the fighter for peace in the Near East. It is with a sincere feeling of sympathy that we share the grief of the people of Israel," he said today in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

R. Gaynutdin noted that "Yitzhaq Rabin did much for the achievement of mutual understanding between Israel and the Arab world. I hope his successor and the champions of building a strong foundation of the Near Eastern home will not let the initiated peace process be stopped."

"I also hope the organizers of the murder of the prime minister, who call themselves 'slaves of the Lord' will suffer just retribution in this world, but the most important thing is they will answer to the Almighty," Shaykh Ravil Gaynutdin said.

Foreign Ministry: Kozyrev Not in Israel

LD0611152795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev did not fly to Israel today to attend Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral along with the government delegation. However, it was earlier reported that Kozyrev was included in the delegation. The Russian Foreign Ministry told our radio station that it was the minister's day off.

Karasin Expresses Support for Yugoslav Peace Efforts

LD0311180195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1533 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — To provide all the necessary conditions for a constructive continuation of the talks which have begun in the United States and for a move toward a real peace settlement of the Yugoslav problem is the aim of Russian diplomacy at the present stage, Grigoriy Karasin, head of the press and information directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

Touching upon the U.S. secretary of state's remarks linking the further development of the peace process and the lifting of sanctions against former Yugoslavia to the removal from power of the present Bosnian Serb leaders, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that he intends to study the official text of the statement carefully. The current talks, he said, are extremely important to the world community and, essentially, they are "yet another and, let's hope, the last and successful attempt to bring peace and a long-term settlement to the former Yugoslavia." Disrupting these efforts, in his words, could lead to the most undesirable consequences, not only in the Balkans and Europe but in the world as a whole. "It is because of that," he said, "that we do not want the talks, their success and progress, to be hindered by any statements running counter to the work which is under way at present."

Karasin added that he was "strangely surprised" by a statement by Serb President Slobodan Milosevic quoted in the Russian and foreign media that Russian humanitarian aid for former Yugoslavia is allegedly of poor quality.

'Bewildered' by Milosevic Remarks on Aid

LD0311192395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin today said he was bewildered by the disdainful statements Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic made about Russian humanitarian aid to residents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The statements from Milosevic were carried by the media.

"This made a bewildering impression on me," Karasin told a briefing in Moscow today.

According to media reports, Milosevic said in an interview with a U.S. newspaper when asked about Russian humanitarian aid to Serbia, "Humanitarian aid? Do you mean the meat which we had to bury because it turned out to be radioactively contaminated or the biscuits produced in 1969?"

Relief Supplies for Serb Refugees Arrive

LD0411080695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELGRADE November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — An aggregate of 220 million roubles worth of medicines, winter clothes, flour and sugar were brought here from Moscow on Saturday by a plane of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations (MES). The cargo, intended for Krajina and Bosnia refugees, has been sent to Yugoslavia by Russia's Kemerovo Region.

"We feel compassion for hundreds of thousands of Bosnia and Krajina Serbs, who have had to abandon their homes in recent months under the blows of Moslem-Croat coalition troops, and cosider it our direct duty to help them," Valentin Naydanov, Deputy Head of the Kemerovo Region Administration, has told ITAR-TASS.

While in Belgrade, Naydanov intends not only to hand over the relief supplies to the Yugoslav Red Cross Committee but also to hold talks with representatives of the local leadership on prospects for cooperation.

After the international sanctions against Yugoslavia are lifted, Naydanov intends to establish direct trade-and-economic contacts between Kemerovo Region and Yugoslav partners, including the establishment of joint ventures.

The latest flight with humanitarian supplies for the Serbs is the 25th one made by MES planes since the middle of August. A decision to render large-scale aid to Yugoslavia was taken by the Russian government on August 11. Already on the next day, three Russian transportation planes with humanitarian cargoes arrived in Belgrade.

Another 10 flights were made by MES planes from Italy. Russia sent KAMAZ truck convoys and a railway train with food and basic necessities to Yugoslavia. As of now, aid has amounted to about 1,700 tonnes of cargoes worth 10,000 million roubles.

The making-up of humanitarian parcels involved both the MES and such Russian Federation subjects as Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Tyumen, and Kemerovo regions. The supplies were routed not only to the Serb refugees in Yugoslavia but also to the Bosnia Serb Republic and to refugees camps at Banja Luka.

The possibility of a second phase of the Russian humanitarian operation is now under discussion, Yuriy Brazhnikov, head of the MES Department for International Relations, has told ITAR-TASS.

The MES has already received sanction from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for the supply of energy resources to Serbia and Montenegro. Diesel fuel and fuel oil will be used for the heating of hospitals, schools and refugee camps, Brazhnikov said.

"If the Yugoslav Red Cross Committee makes new requests for aid, the MES will be prepared to comply with them," Brazhnikov said.

Dayton Talks Reportedly Permit 'Cautious Optimism'

LD0411213795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — The talks designed to resolve the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, which began in the American city of Dayton (Ohio), are taking place on the whole in a constructive atmosphere; they are likely to come to a close in a week's time, a high-ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX.

As he said, the reports sent to Moscow by the Russian representatives in Dayton give rise to "cautious optimism."

"The American air base, where the leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia are holding talks, is cut off from the outside world. All the relevant information is released through the U.S. Department of State," the diplomat noted. "However our experts regularly get in touch with Moscow through satellite communications in order to brief the Russian leaders directly."

Russia's delegation to Dayton is led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

According to the source, the first positive results of the talks in Dayton include the understanding to resolve the problems of Eastern Slavonia (INTERFAX's note: The Serb-populated part of Croatia) by peaceful means reached between Serbia and Croatia, and the Moslem-Croat agreement concerning the return of refugees to their homes.

"The agreement has a symbolic importance, since the Moslems and Croats are strategic allies. But the very striving of the parties concerned to show that they are interested in making the meeting in Dayton a success is important," the diplomat pointed out.

He also said that no documents are to be signed in Dayton. "A major goal of the talks is to coordinate the attitudes of the parties concerned. As for the agreements as such, they will be formulated in legal terms later in one of the European capitals, presumably Paris," the diplomat concluded.

Grachev Plans For Bosnian Forces Decision in Brussels

LD0611061795 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said a final decision on the command of the multinational forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be made at his forthcoming meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry in Brussels, 8-9 November. He said that not all issues related to the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia were solved during a recent meeting in Washington.

The Russian minister also said that the Brussels meeting will discuss not only issues of the command of the multinational forces. Grachev is planning, in particular, to discuss a plan for military bilateral cooperation, and to study reports by the U.S. and Russian sides on the results of the Peacekeeper-95 exercises held in Kansas.

Continuing Discussion on Russia's Role

LD0511181495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1637 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — "Negotiations on Russia's participation in the peace-keeping operation in Bosnia are continuing under heavy political pressure," a senior Russian military official has said.

He said that "progress achieved by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and his U.S. counterpart William Perry will be no easy to develop at their forthcoming meeting in Brussels," due on November 8-9.

At their talks in Washington Grachev and Perry agreed that one month after a peace-keeping operation in Bosnia begins Russian and U.S. special peace-keeping units will be sent there. Their mission will be to promote the return of refugees, deliver supplies and carry out mine-clearing operations. "Moscow is going to participate in the operation in Bosnia from the outset, as soon as the rival factions are disengaged," the Russian Defence Ministry official said.

"Russian military will not be subordinate to NATO's command, this is out of the question," the Russian Defence Ministry official said.

He revealed that Moscow had five or six options of its participation in the peace-keeping operation outside NATO's framework. "The question of financing the Russian peace-keeping contingent is still open," the official recalled.

He believes that "tough political struggle" involving the operation in Bosnia between NATO and Russia considerably influences negotiations between the military delegations.

Each side seeks to score as many points as possible in preparing and carrying out the operation.

The Russian military said that "the side which gains the upper hand in the phase of military and political consultations in Bosnia will continue to set the tune in further peace-keeping operations."

The Defence Ministry official said that negotiations between Russian and U.S. delegates were negatively influenced by the internal political situation in either country. He recalled that presidential elections were due in Russia and the United States next year. He believes that the peace-keeping operation itself will most probably begin next year.

"One should bear in mind the fact that a final go-ahead is to be given by the law-makers," the source said. For that reason each department seeks to present the situation to its parliament in the most favorable fashion to gain the law-makers' support.

Semyonov: Russia Will Fulfill CFE Treaty by 16 Nov

LD0311204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1612 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Russia will on the whole fulfill the Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty by the planned date of November 16, Russian Ground Troops Commander-in-Chief Col. Gen. Vladimir Semyonov told INTERFAX Friday.

Moscow is also prepared to partly fulfill the CFE provisions on flank limitations, he said.

According to Semyonov, the present amount of armaments on the northern flank (the Leningrad military district) meets the requirements set by the CFE Treaty. However, he said that Russia cannot agree to the limitations on armaments set in the treaty for the southern flank (the North Caucasus military district).

"These limitations do not correspond with our national security interests," he stressed. Semyonov said that the army units deployed on the southern flank allow Russia to ensure stability in North Caucasus.

Under the CFE flank quotas, Russian regular units of the Leningrad and North Caucasus military districts can have up to 700 tanks, 580 combat armored vehicles and 1,280 artillery systems.

Not more than 6,400 tanks, 11,480 combat armored vehicles and 6,415 artillery systems must remain in the whole of European Russia after November 16.

An international inspection group is expected to arrive in Russia on November 16 to supervise the implementation of the CFE Treaty.

Need To Ratify START II Examined

MM0311144495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Hard Fate of START II"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When a few days ago the Russian and U.S. defense ministers destroyed an ICBM silo in Missouri they were figuratively speaking putting an end to the work of two people: Yuriy Nazarkin and Linton Brooks, the leaders of the delegations involved in elaborating the START I treaty. Now the two eminent diplomats and experts have met in Moscow not to reminisce about their past successes. They are seriously concerned for the fate of the next, still unratified treaty on the reduction of strategic arms — START II.

The two experts, whose views of the treaty itself differ somewhat, are united on one thing: The treaty must be ratified. In talking with journalists Linton Brooks focused their attention on the fact that despite the opinion existing in Russia, in accordance with START II the United States will also physically destroy a considerable proportion of its arms. In particular MX missiles, four "Trident" nuclear missile carriers, and 30 B-52 bombers will be destroyed. Washington has unilaterally decided to reduce U.S. air-launched cruise missiles.

According to Yuriy Nazarkin by destroying its heavy missiles Russia, for financial reasons, will be unable even to achieve the quantities of single-warhead missile complexes allowed under the treaty. At the same time like Brooks he believes that START II is extremely advantageous to Russia. It is no secret that the economic situation, the miserly funds released for defense purposes simply do not make it possible to maintain the present nuclear potential. Let us not forget that the missiles planned for destruction have mostly come to the end of their useful life and were in any case produced in Ukraine. So that if START II is not ratified Russia will still have to renounce some of its arms while the United States will retain its entire existing potential.

But, Yuriy Nazarkin stressed, despite this doubts regarding the treaty have started to intensify in Russia. The main reason is the Congress decision to create an ABM [antiballistic missile] system which in the opinion of many people could destroy strategic stability and parity. Yes, in the form in which it is now being created (let us note that the Clinton Administration is sharply opposed to any plans to deploy the ABM system) it could intercept 20-30 missiles. But an infrastructure is being created which could develop. And it is that that worries Russian politicians and military men. The way out here, Nazarkin believes, could lie in adopting, at the same time as the ratification, a statement leaving Russia the right to secede from the treaty if the United States undertakes actions aimed at seriously undermining strategic stability and parity.

I asked Linton Brooks what impressions he has formed from talks with Russian parliamentarians. The diplomat said that it is now clear to him that the ratification will not be before the elections but is possible in 1996. He also realized how concerned people are in Russia by Congress' decision to create an American ABM system.

Moscow Inquires on U.S. Plans To Resume Nuclear Tests

LD0311144995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — The Russian embassy to Washington has been asked to probe whether the United States is planning to resume nuclear testings, a foreign ministry spokesman told INTERFAX in Moscow.

Grigoriy Karasin said the question was far from being an idle one and Moscow was keen to get as much information as possible to this end.

Earlier reports referring to the U.S. energy department said Washington was planning to carry out six underground nuclear tests in the next two years.

Until recently the Clinton administration spoke in favor of a continued moratorium on all nuclear tests until a comprehensive ban treaty was signed in 1996. Apart from the United States, Russia and Britain are two other nuclear powers observing the moratorium. But France and China do not.

Pickering Comments on Elections; Cooperation With U.S.

LD0411203695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Russia is unlikely to have political forces uninterested in further development of cooperation with the U.S., U.S. ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering said.

Pickering told a press conference in St. Petersburg on Friday evening that U.S. businessmen would attentively follow the coming elections in Russia in order to evaluate the future opportunities for their businesses in Russia.

Pickering said he was sure that parliamentary elections in Russia would be held on schedule. He said that otherwise the Russian constitution would not be respected.

Pickering said the flow of U.S. investments in Russia was inhibited primarily by the "unpredictability and impreciseness" of Russian fiscal legislation and "terrifying" bureaucratic delays.

Pickering said the U.S. was following Russia's foreign economic activity in order to protect the national and international security interests.

He said the U.S. administration was concerned about the contract for Russia supplying Iran with nuclear reactors. Pickering said U.S. experts had information confirming Iran's intention to acquire nuclear weapons. He said the detailed study of peaceful nuclear technology by Iranian specialists would accelerate the creation of nuclear weapons in Iran.

Pickering said he believed that the national interests of the two strong countries, the U.S. and Russia, would make the peace between them "hot." "However, this is better than the cold war," he added.

Military Alliance With Iran Dismissed as 'Absurd'

LD0311180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — A top ranking official from Russia's Foreign Ministry categorically refuted any possibility of creating a military alliance between Russia and Iran.

Russia's Ambassador to Iran Sergey Tretyakov allegedly did not rule out the possibility of such an alliance, according to Russian and foreign mass media reports.

Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed doubt about the reliability of this information in a Friday Interview with INTERFAX.

"Even the idea of such a union is absurd. Our Ambassador to Tehran would never allow himself to utter such foolishness," he underlined.

Khodakov Censures Attempts To Pressure Caspian States

LD0411210595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Russia accuses the United States and other western countries of "totally inappropriate" attempts to put pressure on the Caspian nations (Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — IF note), the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's legal department Aleksandr Khodakov told INTERFAX.

In Khodakov's view, "only the Caspian nations are entitled to decide the fate of the Caspian Sea," that is define the legal status of the Caspian Sea and rules for the use of the Caspian reserves, and "no third country may impede the decision-making process."

"From the point of view of the western investor, a divided Caspian Region is much easier to deal with."

"But Moscow takes into consideration the Russian interests, including the interests of the Russian oil companies which are seeking access to the Caspian mineral reserves," Khodakov said.

"This does not mean that Russia ignores the interests of the United States and other western nations which, in turn, aim to create favorable legal conditions for the performance of their oil companies in the Caspian region."

"Moscow understands their desire to know the rules of the game and to have appropriate guarantees. That is why it works to create appropriate legal conditions for foreign investment in that region," Khodakov pointed out.

Such legal conditions are yet to be created. Khodakov is afraid that Moscow's "western partners fail to realize it in full measure and are overly optimistic" about their Caspian projects.

"Russia has nothing against foreign investment, Khodakov said, but the Caspian nations must first reach agreement on the rules of the game. Then time will come for talk of foreign, including western, investment."

"As long as the status of the Caspian region remains undefined, deals with foreign companies sort of hang in the air," Khodakov told INTERFAX.

REJECTS RUMORS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY-MINENERGO STANDOFF,

Aleksandr Khodakov dismissed as "innuendo" rumors of a standoff between his and Fuel and Energy, Minenergo, Ministries.

In his view, the two Ministries aim for the same objectives. "Their tactical lines may differ, which is only natural in policy-making. But they do share views of their strategic interests," Khodakov said.

The Foreign Ministry will raise no objection if Russian companies start sealing deals for the development of the Caspian reserves. "Partners sign contracts to define rules of the game. And any private company, free from direct government pressure, aims to reap dividends, Khodakov said. All we do, is point to the need for a solid legal foundation for such contacts."

CLAIMS THAT RUSSIA IS ALL SET TO START DEVELOPING OIL DEPOSITS NEAR BAKU,

Khodakov stressed that "from the legal point of view, any Caspian nation can, in principle, develop mineral deposits anywhere in the Caspian region."

"The Soviet-Iranian agreements of 1921 and 1940 fail to settle all aspects of the development of the Caspian reserves. They speak of the navigation and fishing rights but sidestep the problem of the mineral reserves."

"In other words, Russia stands ready to prospect for oil and develop oil deposits 10 miles away from Baku. It faces no legal obstacles for doing this, Khodakov said. But it refrains from launching ventures which can complicate things and spoil relations between the Caspian nations."

"Russia could, but doubts whether it should, use highly effective levers, Khodakov stressed. Agreement on cooperation in the Caspian region is much preferable."

SAYS MOSCOW, TEHERAN AND ASHGABAT HAVE CLOSE STANDS,

Speaking about the stands of the Caspian states, Khodakov said that "Russia and Iran have either similar or close points of view on all the principal issues relating to the legal status of the Caspian Sea."

"Both sides believe that the present status of the Caspian Sea is defined by treaties between the Soviet Union and Iran and that the agreement of all the five Caspian States is necessary to change it," he said. "In other words, none of these states can unilaterally change the status of the Caspian Sea."

According to Khodakov, Moscow and Teheran are convinced that "the issue must be resolved on the basis of justice and international law so as to avoid causing harm to the Caspian environmental system."

Khodakov also said that Turkmenistan's stand is also close to that of Russia. During the visit to the city of Turkmenbashi by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov in early August Russia and Turkmenistan signed a joint statement on the Caspian Sea which is very close to the one signed with Iran, he said.

CONDEMNS BAKU FOR ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE CASPIAN SEA INTO NATIONAL SECTORS,

According to Khodakov, all the Caspian states agree that defining the status of the Caspian Sea will require the consent of all of them. "However, at the same time steps are taken in contradiction with this agreement," he said.

The problem is that "the points of view of Russia, Iran and Turkmenistan do not coincide with those of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan," said the diplomat.

In particular, Russia opposes the division of the sea into national sectors and believes that its resources must be developed on the joint basis, "taking into consideration the unique nature of the environmental system" of the Caspian Sea," stressed Khodakov.

"Azerbaijan favors dividing the sea into national sectors and in fact proceeds from the assumption that it already has its sector," he said.

"However, the claims to the sector are not based on the international law because they are not agreed to by other Caspian states," said Khodakov.

He said that Azerbaijan often points out the fact that the Soviet Ministry for the Oil and Gas Industry once divided the Caspian Sea into sectors. "It was done for the purposes of the economic development of the sea. But the division lines were not the borders between Soviet republics and, hence, did not have the status of administrative borders," said Khodakov. According to him, the act of the ministry of the already non-existent state cannot be legally binding.

CRITICIZES ALMATY FOR INTENTION TO USE MARITIME LAW IN DEFINING STATUS OF CASPIAN SEA,

He said that Kazakhstan was taking a slightly different position and trying to use elements of maritime law to define the status of the Caspian.

The diplomat remarked that Kazakhstan agreed the Maritime Law Convention was not fully applicable to the Caspian, because that body of water was not a sea.

"The Caspian has no connection with the World Ocean and for that reason is not a sea the way it is described in the Maritime Law Convention. Consequently, that convention is not applicable to it," Khodakov said.

He said that the argument was revolving around what components of international law could be used to define a future legal status of the Caspian.

"The problem is that the Caspian is not simply a lake, but a unique body of water. The Caspian must not be divided for the sole reason most lakes in the world have been divided," the diplomat said.

He recalls that in international law there is no universal rule requiring the division of a border lake. "There are precedents created by individual countries, but no universal rule. An agreement by all coastal countries should be the sole mandatory principle. There is no other way," Khodakov said.

AND BELIEVES IT IS TOO EARLY TO CONVENE CONFERENCE ON CASPIAN.

Khodakov does not believe that efforts to define the Caspian's status are stalled. "True, this is an intricate matter and it is too difficult to make any forecasts, but the question can be resolved in some way, provided there is the political will," the diplomat said.

At the same time he believes it is too early to convene a serious conference in order to produce some solution of the Caspian problem.

"It makes no sense to hold such a conference at a time when there is no understanding of its ultimate goal," Khodakov said and added that such understanding required great preparatory work.

DPRK, Maritime Territory Sign Trade Memorandum

SK0511220395 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Unattributed article from the "Mail Box" program: "Economic Cooperation Between the Maritime Territory and the DPRK"]

[FBIS Summary From Poor Reception] Relations between the Russian Maritime Territory and the DPRK are improving. Yi Song-tae, chairman of the DPRK Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, and (Ivzeni Naltirazenko), governor of the Maritime Territory, signed a memorandum on trade. The memorandum calls for expanded cooperation in "fishery, agriculture, construction, and machinery production."

"Fishery is traditionally the most active field for cooperation." The memorandum gives direction on "the recycling and protection of fishery resources, fishery processing, fishery information exchange, and cooperation between science and technology institutes. Russia and the DPRK agreed on fishing quotas and joint-venture conditions, as well as the repair of Russian fishing boats at DPRK ports."

"The Russian-DPRK joint venture located in Sinpo in the DPRK is producing canned anchovies and pollack. The plant uses Russian facilities and technology." The DPRK wants to have another joint-venture canned food plant like this in Wonsan. This issue will soon be resolved.

In the field of forestry, it was agreed upon in the memorandum that the Maritime Territory provides [words indistinct] and the DPRK provides skilled labor.

"The agricultural field also has bright prospects. DPRK farmers will cultivate land in the Maritime Territory. The DPRK has already sent 350 farmers to the Maritime Territory this year." Thirty percent of the yields will go to DPRK farmers, and the rest to Russia.

"The Maritime Territory accounts for 70 percent of trade between Russia and the DPRK. The DPRK regards the Far East as a material base that it lacks." The Maritime Territory is interested in "exporting processed woods, rolled steel, and mine detectors to the DPRK."

"Economic cooperation between the DPRK and the Maritime Territory has bright prospects."

Moscow To Give Up Military Union With North Korea

LD0411215595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — From the legal point of view, Russia and North Korea belong to a military union, but Moscow intends to give it up, a high-ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX on Saturday.

As he said, the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid, signed between the former USSR and North Korea in 1961, contains a clause under which Russia is committed to give military aid to North Korea in case of an aggression against it. "In fact this signifies a military union between the two countries," the diplomat explained.

According to him, "Russia views this provision as conflicting with today's realities, and therefore it excluded it from the draft of a new treaty forwarded to Pyongyang on August 7 this year."

Nevertheless the diplomat pointed out: "Neither Russia nor North Korea proclaimed their intention to nullify the treaty by September 10, 1995, that is a year before the 1961 treaty expires." "Therefore, according to its terms, the treaty will be automatically prolonged for another five years," the diplomat noted.

"The document can be nullified any time and replaced with another one with mutual consent," he pointed out.

However Pyongyang is still studying the Russian draft of a new treaty. "North Korea has not said that it has objections to the draft, but its official reaction to it has not been announced yet," the diplomat said.

When asked about the possibility of concluding a military union between Russia and South Korea, the diplomat said: "Seoul seems to be quite satisfied with the agreement on mutual security it signed with the U.S. in 1953."

Under the circumstances it is hard to imagine even hypothetically the possibility of concluding a similar union between South Korea and Russia, the expert said.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said in Moscow recently that Russia will look for military allies, if the process of NATO expansion eastwards begins.

He did not rule out the possibility of "closer ties" with countries in the Middle East and Far East, with which

Moscow might sign "lasting treaties on friendship, neighborliness and mutual aid."

Moscow, Hague Sign Chemical Weapons Destruction Protocol

LD0411092895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Hague, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A protocol signed at the Russian Embassy in The Hague today has laid down the principles of joint practical work by the Russian and Netherlands defense ministers in connection with the destruction of stocks of chemical weapons in the Russian Federation. The document was signed by Netherlands Defense Minister Jorris Voorhoeve, and Colonel General Stanislav Petrov, chief of radiation, chemical, and biological defense forces of the Russian Defense Ministry. Leonid Skotnikov, Russian ambassador to the Netherlands, also attended the ceremony. [passage omitted: Voorhoeve on significance of protocol]

The joint protocol is the culmination of a number of meetings which the Russian delegation held in the Netherlands. General S. Petrov met with the defense minister, military and civilian experts, and the leadership of the preparatory commission to set up an organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons.

The protocol which has been signed is an invitation to dialogue and action, General S. Petrov said in a conversation with Russian journalists. The Dutch side reaffirmed its intention to take up this important problem and to help the Russian Federation destroy its chemical weapons. The Netherlands Government is expected to supply the necessary funds for this purpose. In the first half of December Dutch specialists are due to visit Moscow and one of the chemical weapons storage facilities in order to determine the specific directions and nature of their participation in solving this problem, General S. Petrov stressed.

Russian, Slovak Premiers Comment on NATO Enlargement

AU0611162395 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 2 Nov 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by Ivan Drabek: "Six Agreements Concluded During Vladimir Meciar's Talks in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow — [Passage omitted] Even though economic issues were at the forefront of attention, the prime ministers did not refuse to reply to PRAVDA's question on the current number one geopolitical problem. Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed Russia's unchanging resistance to NATO enlargement: "We are against it, but naturally we cannot and do not forbid anyone anything. We believe, however, that there is no need to force this issue today. Let us wait to see how the situation will evolve."

Vladimir Meciar confirmed the words of his host when he said that "Russia is not ordering or forbidding us anything." The Slovak prime minister recalled that "NATO enlargement is in the government's policy statement and, for the time being (when repeating this sentence, the prime minister omitted the words "for the time being" — editor's note), it is not changing this policy statement."

Vladimir Meciar linked his idea of a secure Europe with the creation of a continental security system that would comprise also Russia. "One possible way is NATO's transformation into a pan- European organization in which there could be member countries as well as cooperating countries. It would be a historic mistake if Europe were to be divided into two parts," he added. [passage omitted]

State Department's Burns Cited on Chernomyrdin Role

MM0411185495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "From Across the Ocean It Can Be Seen That the Russian Government Is in Reliable Hands"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It is perfectly natural that the chairman of the Russian Federation Government Viktor Chernomyrdin is assuming additional duties in the period when Russian President Boris Yeltsin is in hospital," stated Nicholas Burns, official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, at a meeting with journalists. In his words, "this accords with the Russian Constitution and with the logic of things."

"for us it is important to maintain stable relations with Russia, and it is important that there should be no unpredictability in the actions of its government." Burns pointed out. "I am glad to observe that, according to our profound conviction, the Russian Government is in reliable hands. We are continuing cooperation with Russia in various fields, including the military, political, and economic spheres, and the problem of a Bosnian settlement." The State Department spokesman also gave a reminder that "Viktor Chernomyrdin has already played an important coordinating role for a long time now in resolving a multitude of issues, above all economic ones."

Political Issues

Further Reportage, Commentary on Yeltin's Illness

Premier Confirms Yeltsin in Charge

LD0411133095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Nadezhda Anisimova and Gennady Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed on Saturday [4 November] that the "power" ministers and the foreign minister remain subordinated directly to President Boris Yeltsin even during his stay in hospital.

Meeting journalists at the government headquarters, Chernomyrdin described as "a false interpretation of his words" Western media reports on Friday which quoted him as saying at a press conference in Moscow's President Hotel earlier in the day that "Boris Yeltsin instructed the premier to take charge of these key ministries."

"During my meeting with the president at the Central Clinical Hospital on Friday, we discussed only an increase in my general workload in connection with Boris Yeltsin's illness. No more than that," the premier said.

Earlier today, presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS that Yeltsin did not delegate any of his powers to the prime minister.

"The Russian President, who is currently undergoing medical treatment in the Central Clinical Hospital, continues fulfilling his constitutional duties in full, and all power ministries (defence, foreign, security and of the interior) are under his direct command," Medvedev said.

The spokesman said that some journalists misinterpreted Chernomyrdin's remarks, reporting that some of the president's authority has been transferred to the premier. "Such interpretation has nothing to do with the reality," Medvedev said.

At the same time, the spokesman admitted that Chernomyrdin has to work harder while the president is in hospital. That was the precise meaning of his remarks, he stressed.

Grachev Answers 'Directly' to Yeltsin

MK0411114495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Korotchenko: "Pavel Grachev: My Chief Is Yeltsin Alone. President Rather Than Premier Controls Power Ministers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's statement by the Russian Federation defense minister puts an end to arguments about who controls the power departments while Boris Yeltsin is undergoing a course of treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital. "I take orders directly from the Russian Federation president" — this statement made by General of the Army Pavel Grachev during a discussion with journalists in the corridors during the Moscow meeting of CIS heads of government was quoted by major Russian and foreign news agencies on Friday.

However, the main proof that the Russian president is in control is the fact that the officers of the General Staff Main Operations Directorate who carry the so-called "nuclear suitcase" and always accompany the head of state are present around the clock at the Central Clinical Hospital next to Boris Yeltsin's ward. He can obtain, at any moment, information both about the state of the Russian Federation nuclear forces and about the operation of the Russian nuclear-missile attack warning system. In addition to the president's set, similar equipment is in the possession of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and General Staff Chief Mikhail Kolesnikov. The "nuclear suitcase" is a symbol of real political power, because, following certain procedures, its possessor if necessary communicates to the troops, through a centralized combat control system, permission to use the Russian strategic triad. Receiving the corresponding command, flight plans are loaded into intercontinental ballistic missiles and their launching is effected.

As for Viktor Chernomyrdin, in Pavel Grachev's words, he only deals with the premier on military-economic questions.

This situation is also true of the other power departments — the FSB [Federal Security Service], MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], FAPSI [Federal Government Communications and Information Agency], and FPS [Federal Border Service], whose heads are also in direct contact with the president and carry out only his orders.

Thus, despite his illness, absolute power is still in the hands of Boris Yeltsin.

It is not ruled out that the Grachev statement was not made accidentally. Chernomyrdin was once more reminded that he is not supposed to make independent decisions in the absence of the head of state, and even less to aspire to temporarily fulfill presidential functions.

Soskovets: Yeltsin 'Well Informed'

LD0611122795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 6 (ITAR-TASS) — "Boris Yeltsin looks fine, is absolutely able to work. He is active and delves into every detail of matters discussed," Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets told journalists on Monday after an hour-long meeting with the Head of State.

Soskovets pointed out that the President of Russia, who continues to take a treatment course at the Central Clinical Hospital "is well informed about all problems of the country and the tasks which are being tackled by the Russian government".

An aggregate of about 1.5 economic development problems of the country were discussed during the meeting, Soskovets specified.

The First Vice-Premier said he told the Head of State about the state of affairs in the defence-industry sector and the fulfilment of the State-placed defence order financing and other information of strategic importance.

In particular, Yeltsin and Soskovets discussed changes in military-and-technical cooperation with foreign countries, a further development of financial-and-industrial groups, and the establishment of transnational financial entities in the areas of Russia's ex-Soviet neighbours.

Special attention at the meeting was devoted to the results of the operation of the country's industry over ten months of the current year, the preparation of the national economy for winter, and the course of the restoration of the economy and social welfare sector of Chechnya.

The President of Russia showed much interest in information on n the state of affairs in the metallurgical and timber industries, the fuel-and-power sector of the country and in government solutions aimed at strengthening the basis of the textile and light industries of Russia, Soskovets added.

Filatov on Yeltsin's Health, Elections

LD0511221695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Studio interview with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, by program host Yevgeniy Kiselev; date not given; from the "Itogi" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiselev] We continue this topic (Yeltsin's health) in an interview in our studio with Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian Federation president's administration. Sergey Aleksandrovich, the president is already in his second week in hospital, what is your view of his condition today?

[Filatov] I think the president himself gave the best assessment of his condition when he gave an interview during his meeting with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. I thought he even seemed more professional than the doctors. His condition seems OK to me now, at any rate, a stream of documents has gone through, both there and back, and a number of documents are being prepared today — they may already have been sent there.

[Kiselev] If I understood you rightly, then even today, Sunday, in hospital, the president is continuing paperwork?

[Filatov] Yes, he asked for documentary materials, what is being written in the press, what is being broadcast, and all the other documents have gone, too.

[Kiselev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, tell me please, recently while the president has been ill, all the power structures have kept persistently saying that there is no need at all for the head of government to take on part of the duties of the president, and many observers have with similar persistence kept expressing astonishment. It seems to me that there is a desire behind this simply to set the president and prime minister against one another again.

[Filatov] This might be the case, but you know that these are issues which, generally speaking, are decided by the president and prime minister, or by certain regulations that ought to exist in a state to cover emergency circumstances. In the present instance...

[Kiselev, interrupting] But there are no regulations at present.

[Filatov] Yes, unfortunately not. Besides, I think that unfortunately there are no regulations concerning what our doctors say. I also do not think it is right that the doctors were silent for several days and all the information came through completely different channels. Of course, some kind of regulations need to be created so that there should be complete clarity from the first minutes that something happens.

[Kiselev] But in any case you do not rule out, to return to my question, that it is not by chance that every time the president is absent for one reason or another, rumors appear about friction in his relations with the prime minister, about the future dismissal of the prime minister, etc.

[Filatov] Well, the same methods are used against a certain circle, including first of all, of course, Viktor Stepanovich.

[Kiselev] Can you tell me, please, what is your opinion, will the president after two heart attacks in close succession decide to stand for a second term? I realize that only Boris Nikolayevich himself can answer this question, but all the same, you are someone quite close to him and have known him well for a long time.

[Filatov] I can only repeat what I said a long time ago. I think, not because I am an official under the president, not because I am the leader of his administration, but speaking as an individual, as a politician who has many contacts and sees the situation in the country and sees people, I think, may God give the president health to stand again for president.

[Kiselev] But all the same, what in your opinion is stopping him from making a final decision now?

[Filatov] No, I think that he has basically made this decision, but I think that, as he announced, it is premature before the elections to the State Duma, with this question...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Is it important for him to assess the political situation in December?

[Filatov] Yes, I think so, of course; whatever it will be. This reading of tea leaves that is going on today has nothing to do with what happens on 17 December.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Sergey Aleksandrovich, for your detailed and direct answer. I understand that in your current, quite difficult position this is probably as open as you can be. We are now going briefly to interrupt the interview with Sergey Kiselev and will return to it after we have recalled details of several of the most important events in Russia's political life this week.

[Kiselev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, many people think that the scandal over the refusal to register a number of blocs, Democratic Russia, then Derzhava, and finally the loudest, Yabloko, gives rise to many questions, questions about strange actions by the Central Electoral Commission, while some people are already saying that, behind the actions of the Central Electoral Commission on the one hand, and behind the actions of the group of citizens who are calling for the elections to be postponed on the other, there is a kind of precise plan by some people in the Kremlin who are striving to remain in power at any price. What do you think about this?

[Filatov] I cannot confirm this because our work and the activity of our apparatus consist of examining the situation in order to help preparations for the elections, in order not to let the situation in the country become unstable, and I think that there are none of these things here, at least I do not know anything about what you are asking, if we are talking about the Kremlin. I think that it is a matter of our purely Russian sloppiness, sometimes, maybe disorganization, etc., etc.

[Kiselev] But this incident is of course unprecedented...

[Filatov, interrupting] The incident itself is unprecedented.

[Kiselev, continuing] ...the Supreme Court examines the decision of the Central Electoral Commission in favor of the complainants. Do you agree that...

[Filatov, interrupting] But above all what does this tell us? I think that above all it says that the law is not clear.

[Kiselev] All the same, I would like to return to my question and perhaps phrase it a little differently. You yourself have said several times that the possibility of a communist-nationalist majority or left-nationalist majority coming to power in the Duma is an enormous threat to democracy in Russia, the communists coming to power will be civil war, this is roughly how you once put it.

[Filatov] Yes.

[Kiselev] So, imagine that in one pan of the scales you have devotion to democracy, the holding of elections in accordance with the laws, in accordance with the president's edicts on when they should be held, and in the other pan the communists coming to power and civil war; what would you choose?

[Filatov] Well, of course you are putting a rather risque question.

[Kiselev] I am deliberately making the situation worse.

[Filatov] The thing is that you do not choose on the eve of the elections, you choose after the elections; whatever happens, you need to think further how to live.

[Kiselev] But your position is that the elections must take place on 17 December?

[Filatov] My position is absolute, that the elections must take place on 17 December, but we must do everything so that the balance of forces in society is reflected by the balance of forces in the State Duma. This is very important, because we went through the most dramatic years when the alignment of forces in the Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies was completely different from the alignment of forces among the people.

[Kiselev] That is, you fear a repeat of the situation that existed in the last Supreme Soviet. But on the other hand, many people are asking the legitimate question, according to the new Constitution the current State Duma cannot at all be compared in terms of its powers, political opportunities or its influence on the adoption of decisions, with that Supreme Soviet, and the Constitution was partly, as we all understand, written in order to prevent that situation being repeated. Well, at the end of the day a bloc of nationalists and communists comes to power, but can it be called coming to power when the president has such powers? At the end of the day, in the event of someone's victory there isn't even the option of changing the prime minister or forming a new government according to the Constitution.

[Filatov] Then we need to talk about what we want from this body. We want a legislative base, I mean we the people, not the authorities; we all expect legislation from this body which will allow society to develop further. If this legislation does not develop, or only half develops, or develops in the opposite direction, then the process will stop, be stopped in society, is this in the interests of society? I do not think so.

[Kiselev] In a nutshell, is it possible to say that, with all the broad powers that the constitution gives the president and the executive authority, it is not worth underestimating a possible future factor such as a left-nationalist majority in the Duma as a destabilizing factor in society capable of provoking some sorts of processes?

[Filatov] Of course. What am I taking as the basis here? I am not working on the basis of some sort of fantasy. I am working on the basis of the factors that exist — the Constitution is being rejected, reform itself is being rejected, the division of property is being rejected. If everything starts to be rehashed now, these are more painful processes again which — I met an businessman who said openly, Sergey Aleksandrovich, we will defend what we already have with all the means at our disposal.

[Kiselev] OK, but people in power, including in the Kremlin, are not there also people there ready to defend the power which they have now, which they exert, also with all the means at their disposal, including, I would say, convincing the president to take certain emergency steps, let us say to cancel the elections.

[Filatov] Well, I cannot say that everyone thinks exactly the same way. Of course, everyone has his point of view.

[Kiselev] But are there people in power who are ready to do anything to retain this power?

[Filatov] I think so, I think so.

[Kiselev] Well, thank you for this quite direct answer, Sergey Aleksandrovich. We are again stopping our conversation to return to some of the main events of the last few days.

Daily Sees Yeltsin on Path to Recovery

MM0411183495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] You have before you a photograph of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. [Photograph accompanying text 7ins. tall by 5ins. wide shows head and shoulders shot of puffy faced Yeltsin with slight smile wearing striped, zippered tracksuit of same style as worn during televised meeting with Chernomyrdin] The photograph was taken specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Friday, 3 November, at the Central Clinical Hospital. The President ended up [ugodil] in his hospital bed on 25 October the day after returning from an arduous (a seven-hour time differential, the flight taking the same length of time as that) journey across the ocean to participate in the jubilee session of the UN General Assembly and for a meeting with the U.S. President.

Eight days later, judging by the photograph and the statement by Academician Eduard Vorobyev — the scientific leader of the team of doctors treating the president, the alarms are all behind us. "Everything is fine [normalno] with Boris Nikolayevich, to the degree possible," Naina Yeltsina, wife of the president, stated Friday. "Of course, I am very sorry that this has happened. But all of us are subject to God's will [my khodim pod Bogom]...."

"I am sure that President Yeltsin will soon be well," confirmed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin when he met with the head of state the same day. For 30 minutes he discussed with the president urgent problems of domestic and foreign policy, and also a package of documents on cadre appointments. Nor did the interlocutors bypass the state of affairs in the election campaign. Here, both of them stressed "the necessity for all participants in the preelection struggle to comply with commonly accepted ethical standards."

The fact that things are on the mend for Boris Yeltsin is also indicated by the increased flow of reports about documents that he has signed. After confirmation by the president, federal laws on raising the minimum pensions and minimum wage entered into force as of 1 November. Several draft laws have been submitted to the State Duma, including one on bringing into effect part two of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, which regulates certain aspects of the obligations which arise in the process of buying and selling, leases, loans, and banking affairs. The president also resolved to set up a commission for preparing a Treaty on Settling Relations between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI yesterday received new documents signed by Boris Yeltsin. According to the editorial office's information obtained from reliable sources, the head of state's working day in the hospital will be gradually increased. Ahead are more meetings with aides and ministers, and work on regulatory documents.

Of course, this does not mean that Boris Nikolayevich has already gotten the better of his ailment. "The president is aware that a second bout of ischemic heart disease in four months is no laughing matter," reported Viktor Ilyushin, first assistant to the head of state. But in his words, Boris Yeltsin has made it clear that he retains for himself the exercise of those duties which by the Constitution are the prerogative of the president.

The doctors say that the president must be under strict medical supervision until the end of November. It is clear to them that the cost of the attempt to "deceive" the disease undertaken four months ago has been another heart attack. And there must be no future repetition of this, especially as the country is on the threshold of new ordeals.

Moreover, immediately after the news of the hospitalization of Boris Nikolayevich, voices rang out in the opposition camp: "The president is incapable [nedeyesposobnyy] otherwise it would not be officials, but doctors, who would be talking about his health." The doctors were shown and Academician Vorobyev met with journalists. New demands rang out: "Show Boris Yeltsin himself!" And here we have met these demand halfway — reportage about the meeting between the President and the head of Government was carried on all television channels. But by all accounts even this is not enough. What are you going to demand next, gentlemen?

From time immemorial people in Russia have shown sympathy for a sick person and tried to alleviate his sufferings. As we can see, customary norms of behavior have changed — today for some people what is important is not the truth but political gain. Even at the expense of speculation on the health of the president."

Yeltsin Issues Edict on Supreme Court of Chechnya

LD0311150295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict "On the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic," the Russian head of state's press service reported today.

The text of the edict, circulated by the press service, says that the president, guided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the law "On the Structure of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic Judiciary," endorses the composition of the presidium of the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic, totaling five persons.

Additionally, the president appointed Musa Satayev and Natalya Selitskaya as members of Chechnya's Supreme Court.

Yeltsin Questions Parliamentary Immunity Law

LD0511123595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 5 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent to the Constitutional Court an enquiry about conformity with the constitution of several clauses of the parliamentarian status law concerning parliamentary immunity.

The Russian parliament has amended the law to broaden the immunity.

A release from the presidential press service dispatched to ITAR-TASS today says the president's motivation for the enquiry is the public concern about media-reported quest of candidates with a criminal record for parliamentary mandates.

The press service quotes Yeltsin's reasoning that the constitution and parliamentary immunity are distorted by the law which confers the immunity too liberally.

Yeltsin Aide Suggests Return of Federation Council Bill

LD0411144595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin's legal aide Mikhail Krasnov will advise his boss to return the bill "on the formation of the Federation Council" to the State Duma.

The bill gives the constituent parts of the Russian Federation eight months for holding gubernatorial elections. Krasnov opposes this.

"As a matter of fact, the bill interferes into the affairs of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation, Krasnov told INTERFAX Saturday. By doing so it questions the legitimacy of the presidential choices for governors of the Russian Federation."

In the absence of federal legislation on organs of power in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, President Yeltsin is privileged to settle all problems of gubernatorial elections. That is why Krasnov advises Yeltsin to oppose the call for early gubernatorial elections.

In a bid to override the Federation Council veto on the bill, the State Duma "voted only amendments to the new legislation but failed to put to vote the bill as a whole." Krasnov sees this as disregard of the Duma's procedural rules.

The bill on the Federation Council was rejected by the upper house of the Russian legislature. The State Duma overrode the Federation Council veto on October 27 and the bill was delivered to the President's office on October 30, Duma sources told INTERFAX.

The national Constitution gives President Yeltsin two weeks for signing or rejecting the bill.

Yeltsin Submits Civil Code, Military Laws to Duma

MM0311143795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Legal Guarantee of Civil Society"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent several draft laws to the State Duma by way of a legislative initiative. They include the draft of Part Two of the Russian Federation Civil Code and two federal laws — "On Enacting Part Two of the Russian Federation Civil Code" and "On Military-Technical Cooperation with Foreign Countries." Announcing these submissions, the presidential press service stressed that Part Two of the Russian Federation Civil Code "is just as important for the formation of the country's new economic system as Part One (the general part) of the Code." The two parts (Part Three is also being elaborated) can be described as the main legal guarantee of a civil society.

Our Information

The draft of Part Two of the Civil Code, according to the Russian Federation Presidential Press Service, is devoted to regulating certain types of liabilities which arise in the process of buying and selling, leasing, loans and credit, gifts, provision of services, and many other categories of civil-legal relations.

Advisor Denies Rift Between Chernomyrdin, Kozyrev

LD0411215195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — In an interview with INTERFAX the Russian prime minister's international affairs adviser Mikhail Tarasov categorically denied the allegations that Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrey Kozyrev "do not get along with each other."

"Foreign Minister Kozyrev has been taking a particularly active part in the work of the government and its presidium in the past year and a half. He attended virtually all government sessions," Tarasov said.

Nevertheless he conceded that at first the trend toward resolving all foreign policy issues directly through the president was visible in the foreign minister's activity.

However, at a session held by the leading Foreign Ministry officials, Boris Yeltsin made it clear that as a president he should resolve only the issues connected with working out the strategy and tactics of foreign policy. As for the remaining problems, such as financing and other economic issues, they should be tackled by the government.

So, Tarasov went on to say, Kozyrev's initial striving to resolve problems directly through the president, bypassing the government, "was only a misunderstanding", which was subsequently corrected between the president and the foreign minister.

Chernomyrdin Holds Conference With Local Leaders

LD0411192195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This year will go down in Russia's history as a year of reforms of bodies of local self-government, Viktor Chernomyrdin said today at the All-Russia Conference with heads of bodies of local self-government in Government House. The prime minister stressed in particular that with the development of local authorities, there will be order and stability in Russia:

[Correspondent Igor Demin] In his opinion, an improvement in the people's life today depends directly on the work of local authorities. How otherwise can the different standard of living in literally two neighboring districts or settlements be explained? The task of the country's supreme authority today, Viktor Stepanovich believes, is to support local self-government with legislation:

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] The content of our work today is assuming a special topicality with the coming into force of the federal law on the general principles of the organization of local self-government in Russia. This is a law of extreme importance. It affects the foundation of Russia's state structure, and in many respects the principles of its political system. [end recording]

[Demin] Viktor Chernomyrdin described the interaction between the federal executive authorities and the local authorities as one of the main issues. He takes the view that individual state functions can be delegated to the bodies of self-government, but only by mutual consent and appropriate financing.

Many of the speakers mentioned the need for a closer and permanent contact between the local authorities and the supreme state authorities. To this end, it was decided to set up the Russian Union of Local Authorities and to regard today's conference as its constituent congress. The Union's organizational committee is now headed by Roman Popkovich. [video shows Shakhray, Filatov, and Yarov in the presidium of the conference, and Chernomyrdin addressing the conference]

Premier Promises To Keep Inflation Down

LD0411212295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — The upcoming parliamentary elections will be of principal importance for Russia, because this expression of popular will decides on "who determines the country's future," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a conference of local leaders in Moscow Saturday.

Speaking on the government's economic policy, Chernomyrdin highlighted a complex of measures to back the ruble and make irreversible financial stabilization, the essential condition for political stability in Russia. "Inflation should be brought down to zero, and I am confident that we will suppress it," he underlined.

Chernomyrdin opposed a sharp increase in domestic prices to world ones. He said this could be done only when the quality of Russian goods reaches international standards.

Commenting on prospects for Russia's economic development in 1996, Chernomyrdin was confident that there will be a growth in production and boost to investments.

Speaking on the decision to transfer part of state-owned stakes in many privatized enterprises to management by commercial banks, Chernomyrdin said a relevant presidential decree permitted the sale of transferred stakes no earlier than September 1996. The decree banned purchase of these stakes by foreign companies and figureheads, up to the most severe measures.

The conference decided to create a union of Russian local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the resolution of local self-government problems.

Former Acting Prosecutor General Dismissed

LD0411144195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Russia's former acting prosecutor general Aleksey Ilyushenko has been dismissed from the staff of prosecuting authorities, a senior law-enforcement officer told INTERFAX on Saturday. "Ilyushenko was dismissed in connection with his retirement," he explained.

At the moment four of the six deputies of Russia's prosecutor general remain on active duty. One deputy, Mikhail Slavgorodskiy, retired in mid-October. Vildan Uzbekov, who was appointed first deputy prosecutor general under Ilyushenko, is on vacation.

Another Deputy Prosecutor General, Oleg Gaydanov, who led the office of prosecutor general for about two weeks before the appointment of Yuriy Skuratov, has returned to his former duties; he is in charge of investigations as before.

As Senior Assistant to the Prosecutor General Aleksandr Zvyagintsev told INTERFAX on Saturday, the new Prosecutor General Yuriy Skuratov has refrained from drastic steps so far. He took office a week and a half ago, when his candidacy was endorsed by the Federation Council.

According to Zvyagintsev, Skuratov's first week in office was very productive. The new prosecutor general regularly conferred with senior members of his office; he met with the chief prosecutors of federation members and with the leaders of Russia's law enforcement agencies.

Kulikov Fires Police General for Criminal Links

LD0411220095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1904 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — During Operation "Clean Hands" Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov fired a general from a top post in the Moscow region police, after it was established that he had passed classified information on a witness to a criminal group, INTERFAX learned from informed sources.

Kulikov met with senior Interior Ministry officials Saturday to discuss the operation, which began on October 26 and is aimed at fighting corruption in the police ranks. An Interior Security Department, directly subordinate to the minister, is currently being formed in the Interior Ministry to prevent agents of criminal groups from penetrating the police force.

Speaking at the meeting, Kulikov stressed the need for tougher control over the selection of police cadres.

Luzhkov Denies Investment in Russia 'Risky Business'

LD0411163295 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has called absurd speculations that investing in Russia is a risky business. He was speaking in Geneva, where, together with the Russian economy minister, Yevgeniy Yasin, and other officials, he is taking part in the international conference on the problems of foreign investment in Russia.

According to Mr. Luzhkov, Russia can resolve the problems it faces on its own, but would do it quicker with the help of investments. He warned that in five years' time, Russia may not need foreign capital at all.

Both Mr. Luzhkov and Mr. Yasin said that, whatever the results of the forthcoming Russian parliamentary elections, due in December, the country's internal and foreign policy would remain unchanged.

Media Issues

Court Refuses To Examine Yeltsin TV Edict

LD0411223095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The Constitutional Court has refused to accept a request from the State Duma to verify for constitutional compliance Russian Presidential Edict No. 2133 "On improvements to the use of the first television channel frequency and its dissemination network," dated 29 November 1994.

The court's ruling said preliminary examination of the request showed that "the entitlement of the president to issue such edicts was contained in the Russian Federation Constitution." The court's ruling is final and not subject to appeal.

Yakovlev Disputes Findings on 'Ostankino'

MM0211135495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3

[Letter from A.N. Yakovlev, former chairman of the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Company, to I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma: "'Ostankino': Passions Still Running High" — first four paragraphs are ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The disputes over the situation at the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Company continue. State Duma deputies have tried to find out what is going on at television channel one. On their instructions the Russian Federation Comptroller's Office has investigated the company's activity. Some of its conclusions were set out in a ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item on 24 October this year.

A.N. Yakovlev, former chairman of the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Company, contacted the editorial office in connection with the investigation. He asked us to publish the letter that he has sent to State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin and the extensive explanatory memorandum — a whole newspaper page long — about the Comptroller's Office, signed by a number of television leaders. We now publish the letter. We cannot publish the memorandum itself because of its length.

Even though ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has not carried out an independent investigation, many of the arguments contained in the explanatory memorandum seem convincing to us.

But we believe that the authority addressed by the author of the letter — the State Duma — should be the first to express its opinion. If it offers its conclusions we will publish them, given the public's interest in the problems facing Russian television.

To I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma.

Esteemed Ivan Petrovich!

In a private capacity I have seen the Comptroller's Office documents on the results of the investigation into "Ostankino" television's financial and economic activity.

I can only regret that I was not familiarized with these materials earlier despite the generally accepted norm that leaders whose activity is subjected to scrutiny should be informed of such findings.

Furthermore, I first learned about all this from MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, which published the documents even before the examination of this question by the State Duma.

This is also indicative of a deliberate action which does not have the character of objective research but serves other purposes instead.

I have no intention of defending "Ostankino's" financial and economic activity. In addition, when President B.N. Yeltsin invited me to head the company I asked him to order an examination of its economic and financial activity and this was conducted by the Presidential Staff's Control Administration in conjunction with the Finance Ministry. This commission produced no significant conclusions. All its comments were taken into account in practical work.

Not satisfied with that, I issued an order banning barter deals, which were effectively a form of financial abuse. Subsequently I set up an independent company called "Reklama-Holding" so as to do away with the many intermediaries who had actually "latched onto" "Ostankino." Unfortunately the company lasted just three financial quarters although in that time advertising revenue increased several times over.

It is regrettable that the commission seemed not to notice these decisions aimed at putting the financial and economic activity in order.

The commission also overlooked the fact that it was checking the company's activity at a time when it was being transformed into a joint-stock company. Many of the criticisms seem to take no account of the fact that there were problems in the organizational period. Still less the fact that certain State Duma factions were involved in these events and opposed the state company's transformation into a joint-stock company.

There was one reason for this transformation: the shortage of funds. The commission's findings do not reflect the endless tug of war with the Finance Ministry over money. A number of times the company was on the verge of ceasing broadcasting. And it was only the periodic interventions by the president and the government which saved it from collapse. "Ostankino" could not go on living like that.

The solution was to set up ORT.

When I speak about bias I want to draw Duma deputies' attention to the following matters among others:

a) The criticism is leveled at me that I caused harm by paying an independent television company 119 million rubles for showing the movie "Stalin's Testament." I consider this accusation simply ludicrous. Had this movie been replaced by a different one it would still have cost money. Incidentally, the document says that I gave the instruction to show this movie. That is utter drivel. The movie was shown prior to the December 1993 Duma elections, before I was appointed to "Ostankino."

The commission could have checked that fact. But clearly its interests lay elsewhere.

b) The point is made that I went on a business trip to France and Portugal with my wife and Ignatyev. The findings then say that they are not company employees. I reject this accusation because "Ostankino" did not pay a single kopek of the travel costs of my wife or Ignatyev. The latter traveled as a security officer and this trip among others was paid for by the security service.

What is all this about?

c) There is a criticism that I went to the United States accompanied by Zolotov who is not a company employee. Zolotov accompanied me as an interpreter to meet with CNN President Ted Turner for talks on the production of a joint movie about the Cold War. Incidentally, the money taken as an advance was repaid immediately after my return. So what is the problem here?

I find these misinterpretations not so much irritating as distressing.

As for the other comments, I would like to highlight the following points.

In many instances the report uses such terms as "apparently" and "probably." An investigation into financial and economic activity demands accuracy not suppositions which can arouse suspicions but cannot prove anything.

The following point is noteworthy: The whole report is permeated by the idea that programs were bought in, and not produced in-house. This is simply a refusal to understand the situation at "Ostankino." The company's apparatus was considerably larger than it needed to be. But the commission must have known that several more companies were formed in those years and all or the majority of the people who could produce creative work went to other channels where the pay and all the other conditions were considerably better.

During my time working for "Ostankino," I managed to cut around 900 jobs. The claim that this hit creative posts rather than bureaucratic ones is simply untrue. The creative workers who left formed independent studios. They did not disappear into thin air. But it was difficult to reduce the bureaucratic staff. In each case it was necessary to go through the proper legal procedures. Thus the manipulation of percentages demonstrates the basic incompetence of the investigating officers.

It is true that we preferred to buy in programs because many people in "Ostankino's" own studios were simply incapable of making programs that we would not have been ashamed to show to the viewers.

Incidentally, does the Comptroller's Office know, for example, that the "Publitsist" studio — "Ostankino's" own studio — also bought in 85 percent of its output? It produced only 15 percent itself even though there were a great many people working at that studio. It took money from its sponsors and then sold its output to "Ostankino" and all its staff received extra pay. This is what happened at "Ostankino's" own studios.

Had this criticism been made by the Comptroller's Office I would have accepted it without demur.

I ask you to distribute this note and its supplement among State Duma deputies.

Respectfully yours,

A.N. Yakovlev, 2 October 1995

Military & Nuclear Issues

General Dismissed For Not Fulfilling Grachev Order

MK0411143895 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 2-8 Nov 95
No 44, (Signed to press 1 Nov 95) p 4

[G.Zh.-signed report: "A Mercedes for Some and a Beggar's Bag for Others"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In light of the ongoing horse trading around Russian military bases in Georgia, last week's dismissal of Major General Pavel Kuzemchak from the post of chief of staff of Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone becomes meaningful.

They dismissed a general who had prevented an inevitable tragedy. He refused to carry out an order by the Russian defense minister. From 19 September through 2 October, Grachev planned to move peacekeeping battalions, 65 percent of whose men are Georgians, from Zugdidi Rayon to Gali Rayon of Abkhazia, and then, under the cover of the troops, to return Georgian refugees there.

This would have been not just another "Chechnya." Had this happened, the Abkhazians would have blown up the Inguri Hydroelectric Station. Gali and Ochamchira Rayons would have simply been swept by a man-made tsunami.

Pavel Kuzemchak believes that he will also be dismissed from the military. He does not rule out that Grachev will repeat his order. "But I am sure," the general says, "that those who can prevent the execution of a criminal order will have enough courage to do so, and peacekeeping forces will remain loyal to their status defined by the CIS heads of state."

The general, fluent in three foreign languages and with an excellent record in the military, still has no apartment of his own. In effect, his comrades in arms have thrown him out into the street.

General Warns Against Dividing Air Defense System

LD0411202995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Chief of Staff for Coordination of CIS Military Cooperation Col. Gen. Viktor Samsonov has warned against dividing the air defense system of the former Soviet Union.

The system must be indivisible and operate in the interests of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole, he said on Saturday.

Samsonov said air defense structures in former Soviet republics were still intact, but parts of the system must be restored in some of them and updated in others.

Moscow would bear the brunt of expenditure on personnel training and restoration work, he said.

The unified air defense system covers all but three CIS states — Moldova, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

It is now known that negotiation is under way to try to include them into the system.

The number of CIS states involved in common air defenses is expected to rise next year, one CIS source told INTERFAX. He also said Azerbaijan, which inherited a powerful air defense structure from the former Soviet Union, must play a substantial role in the system.

Gromov Interviewed on Army Reform

LD0511233695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0715 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Interview with Colonel General Boris Gromov by unidentified correspondent with opening and closing remarks by Tatyana Yeremina; place and date not given; from the "Panel of Experts" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yeremina] Good morning, this is Mayak commentator Tatyana Yeremina at the microphone. The problem that we are going to discuss today has been at the center of public debate for years now, but alas has yet to be solved. I am talking about the reform of the Russian Army. It will come as no surprise to you, dear listeners, that the Reform Foundation [Fond Reforma] has asked chief expert Colonel General Boris Gromov to share his knowledge with you.

[Begin recording] [Gromov] Ideally the Russian Federation army should be professional — ideally. Furthermore, this professional army should naturally prepare for, think through, and review the issue of military mobilization and it should have large reserves.

Incidentally, where a professional army is involved decisions affecting mobilization must be made at national level, as well as within the Armed Forces. Otherwise it is an impossible situation. Have a whole system for preparing the country's people, the economy, the infrastructure, and everything relevant to the defense of the state, and you will have a professional army.

[Unidentified correspondent] How close do you think we are to that?

[Gromov] To have a professional army you need to take an enormous number of various measures. In terms of time and means I think that we are quite far off, because in order to have a professional army the state must have the appropriate level of economic and industrial development. Therefore, it naturally will not be in the near future.

[Correspondent] Does the situation in the army today upset you very much?

[Gromov] Both the state of the army itself and its status in society upset me in every respect. The Armed Forces are today in a state of depression for both objective and subjective reasons.

[Correspondent] Are you saying that something could be done in the near term?

[Gromov] Certainly. From the point of view of the army commanders, you see, the main factor today is that the army is underfinanced and, yes, that is true. But there are other factors too that depend on the leadership of the Armed Forces and leadership at a lower level. There is the simply amoral attitude shown today toward the Armed Forces' officers and warrant officers, and the soldiers and noncommissioned officers in particular. That attitude should be one of respect. Care should be taken of those people. But we are now at such a pass that only the enthusiasm of the greater part of the officers keeps our army going. It only exists because the greater part of the officers, who selflessly live in tents along with their children and wives without apartments and on beggarly salaries, nonetheless believe in their army and in the possibility of an eventual change in relations. I think it incomprehensible that the army should have a food shortage, that regiments and individual battalions should have to supply themselves with provisions. It is completely without precedent. We do not hear Russia described as a Third World country. If Russia is to be a great state then it should have the army to match. [end recording]

[Yeremina] You were listening to an interview with Colonel General Boris Gromov, the chief military expert at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Panel of Experts" will next be on the air on Mayak on Thursday [9 November] at 0910. Goodbye until then.

UK Paper Cited on Squabble Over 'Nuclear Button'

MM0611101095 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Maksim Chikin: "Whose Hand Is Reaching for the Nuclear Button?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — The Russian president's sudden illness seems to have worried the West more than Russian citizens. Everyone is particularly concerned about whether the president forgot to take the attache case containing the nuclear button to the hospital.

Carey Scott, Moscow correspondent for London's THE SUNDAY TIMES, sent his editorial office a long article on this topic. According to the reporter, confrontation has begun within the Russian leadership over the right to keep the cherished attache case while the president is recuperating at the Central Clinical Hospital. On the day that he was hospitalized the prime minister's guard and the president's musketeers began, figuratively speaking, each pulling the attache case in their direction. "Chernomyrdin is undeniably now in a better state to make decisions than Yeltsin," THE SUNDAY TIMES cited a member of the premier's entourage. The presidential host denied this. "They will defend Yeltsin's powers tooth and nail," one of THE SUNDAY TIMES government sources said, "because they know that when he dies, they go."

Next, according to the SUNDAY TIMES correspondent, the following happened: "Grachev was out of the country, his first deputy Andrey Kokoshin was in a bad way after celebrating his birthday, and it (the attache case — Editorial Note) was left to General Aleksandr Korzhakov.... Who said: 'Whoever has the button has the power.' Chernomyrdin sat silently, unwilling to precipitate a crisis of greater dimensions. Ever since Yeltsin's sudden hospitalization, the man who would be king has conducted himself with the utmost diplomatic caution, casting an optimistic light on the president's recovery and dismissing rumors of political problems.

"The next day Sergey Medvedev, Yeltsin's press secretary, solemnly announced that the black box — which contains the hotline telephone for ordering nuclear strikes — was at the president's side. But it is unclear who will be advising the stricken president on when to lift the receiver. The only person allowed into his room has been his wife Naina.

"According to the 1993 Constitution, if Yeltsin becomes incapable of carrying out his duties, they will be temporarily performed by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin before calling presidential elections within three months. He is the frontman for the powerful industrial giants — the huge, all-powerful 'Gazprom' monopoly, the oil industry, and the military-industrial complex. None of them wants any economic or political shake-up. Were Viktor Chernomyrdin to become president, there would be little change in the status quo.

"It is uncertain whether such transfer of power can be effected. If Korzhakov and his Kremlin cronies were to try to hang on to power over Yeltsin's body, the worst-case scenario, say defense analysts, would be a coup by the disgruntled army and fighting in Moscow's streets of Moscow of the kind witnessed two years ago."

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Assesses State Duma's Successes, Failures

MK0411134195 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lyuboshits: "Bitter Is the Speaker's Bread"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin got himself invited to visit his oblast counterparts. The Duma, it is clear, is winding up its work, and its performance should be assessed. That's what Ivan Petrovich did, confirming once again his reputation as a politician rather moderate in his judgments. He spoke about the State Duma's achievements and failures. Well, he is better off doing this now of his own accord rather than listening later, after the December elections, to the complaints of his "successors." In short, Rybkin's address resembled a classic report on work done, listing all the achievements, mistakes, and shortcomings.

In Ivan Rybkin's words, the State Duma has a further 500 draft laws "up its sleeve." The current Duma does not have time left to whip them into shape. Thus, there is more than enough work for its successors. It would be fine now for the Duma if it manages to agree on the Land Code. It has only passed the first reading. It only remains to find out who after all should be in charge of agricultural land. That is what is causing all the fuss in the State Duma. As for achievements, it was possible to pass the Air, Water, and Criminal Codes. The first part of the Civil Code was passed. The State Duma is not that bad at all: The president signed 240 of the 360 draft laws it submitted; among them is the law "On Veterans." The way it is being observed is a shame. In Rybkin's words, the government was supposed to have passed corresponding decrees; it did not, and now the debt to veterans is 7.2 trillion rubles. The State Duma currently insists that the "veterans" expenditure be included as a separate item in next year's budget. It is also necessary to pay the debts owed to pensioners, with an allowance for inflation. And, finally, for the immediate plans. In the speaker's view, parliament's powers should be expanded. It is true that Rybkin was not so straightforward. One person simply cannot take care of everything. Therefore, the president should appoint key ministers on the approval of the State Duma. To prevent confusion in Russia each time there is a change in government, there should be first deputy ministers. They are supposed to be pure bureaucrats, people who are outside all parties and political groupings. There are many complaints about the Federation Council. It is too eager to touch everything with its own hands, thereby dragging out the passing of important laws. In the future, heads of legislative assemblies of federation components should be included in the Federation Council in addition to heads of administrations and heads of republics. It is impossible to work without support from the territories. Let he who does not understand this go fly a kite. Upon this, the State Duma firmly stands and will stand. That was the gist of the constitutional amendments proposed by the State Duma.

As for the speaker, his bread is rather hard-earned and bitter. This is pertinent to the question of whether Rybkin will agree to once again fill his post should he be elected deputy.

Replacement Plan for Rybkin Seen

MM0611123895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "A. Lukyanov Dreaming of Becoming Speaker Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of I. Rybkin's removal from the post of speaker could be raised at a session of the State Duma in the very near future. According to well-informed sources the leaders of the Communist, Agrarian, and Liberal Democratic factions reached agreement on that point during mutual consultations in the lower house of parliament the other day.

During those consultations the sides also reached agreement on the nomination of I. Rybkin's successor. It could be A. Lukyanov, former speaker of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

According to the Communists there are two program options for the removal of I. Rybkin. The maximum program envisages his removal from the speaker's position in the immediate future. The minimum program envisages active opposition to I. Rybkin's bloc during the election campaign and the nomination of A. Lukyanov to the speaker's post in the new Duma.

By all accounts, the Communists regard their former comrade as one of their main political opponents and almost as their main rival. It is obvious that it would be very appealing for the opposition to turn the final Duma sessions into a major pre-election political show. And I. Rybkin, who in the past two years somehow managed to preserve the image of the Russian parliament, is the main obstacle to the attainment of that goal.

The present Duma has largely been saved by the fact that its chairman put political preferences to one side almost immediately after entering office. But it is quite obvious that the appearance in the speaker's chair of a clearly politically committed deputy could quite soon place parliament in the situation of the former Supreme Soviet in September-October 1993.

Democratic Party To Raise Health Commission Question

MM0311160895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3-10 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Concerned..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the next plenary sitting of the State Duma, planned for 10 November, the Democratic Party of Russia faction intends to place on the agenda the question of setting up a state medical commission to investigate President Boris Yeltsin's state of health. This was announced yesterday by faction leader Stanislav Govorukhin at a meeting with journalists.

Meanwhile documents will be taken every morning to B. Yeltsin for signing. Yesterday the president was visited by his principal assistant V. Ilyushin.

Conciliation Commission Raises Export Tax on Gas

MK0511081995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Conciliation Commission Has Raised Export Tax on Gas. Deputies Have Accused the Government of Defending Gazprom's Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, at a special session, the conciliation commission on the budget reviewed proposals by the Duma Committee for Economic Policy regarding a rise in federal budget revenues from foreign economic activity. According to a report made by Sergey Glazyev, committee chairman and a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, these proposals boil down to maintaining the average export tax at 15 percent by raising export taxes on oil and gas, also retaining the average import tax at the level of 15 percent, and raising the value-added tax for imported goods from 7.6 to 16 percent. According to Sergey Glazyev, if the mean export tax rates are retained, the budget will receive additional revenues amounting to 2.5 billion [currency not specified]. In addition, a rise in export taxes on oil and gas will eliminate the need to raise excise duties on these products. In Mr. Glazyev's opinion, a rise in excise duties will be a blow to domestic producers and will lead to a further rise in unpaid debts. According to calculations made by the Committee for Economic Policy, the retention of the average import tax at 15 percent will bring an additional $2 billion to the budget. Sergey Glazyev emphasized that this would provide some minimum protection for domestic commodity producers.

Valeriy Volkov, head of the Finance Ministry's Foreign Currency Department, however, said that it is impossible to discuss any changes in revenues from foreign economic activity without taking into consideration two factors of utmost importance — the statement by the Central Bank and the government on economic policy, implementation of which is being closely monitored by the International Monetary Fund, and the demands of the World Trade Organization, the joining of which by the Russian Federation is being negotiated. In addition, in his words, even under the present tax rates, exporting oil and gas is unprofitable. Mr. Volkov noted that, if the export tax is raised, Gazprom will refuse to deliver gas under the Yamburg agreement and funds will have to be raised from the budget to pay for equipment, in exchange for which Gazprom is currently supplying gas.

Mr. Volkov was supported by Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin, who said that the verification of Gazprom's financial position performed in the summer showed that it had no serious financial resources. In Mr. Yasin's opinion, a rise in export taxes will undermine the stable activity of Gazprom as well as other export sectors.

The arguments of the government's representatives failed to convince the deputies, however. Senator Vyacheslav Zvolinskiy ironically said that he is "fascinated by the government's moving concern for Gazprom." He hypothesized that had the prime minister of Russia been an expert in gynecology, government members would have probably taken care of maternity hospitals. Sergey Glazyev regarded as absurd the government's arguments that a rise in export taxes on oil and gas would frustrate negotiations with Western creditors on the restructuring of Russian debt, and expressed doubts as to the fact that the International Monetary Fund was insisting on having import taxes reduced.

After long discussions and votes, the conciliation commission decided to raise the export tax on gas from 2 to 5 ECU's. Having made concessions on gas, however, the governmental part of the commission blocked a decision on an increase in the tax on oil from 10 to 20 ECU's, an increase in the value-added tax on imported goods, and a rise in average import tax rates.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Negotiations, Military, Politics

Lobov: Russia Does Not Refuse Negotiations

LD0311175895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1612 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — "The number of negotiators on Chechnya will be increased with Doku Zavgayev's appointment as head of the Chechen government," presidential envoy in Chechnya Oleg Lobov said at a press conference in Groznyy Friday.

"Contact with those who have not yet followed the path of peace is being increased," he said.

Lobov reported that Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov on October 31 expressed his own point of view when he declared that "Dudayev's party should be excluded from the political negotiation process." He did not coordinate this point of view with Russian leadership, Lobov assumed.

"The official position remains the same: We do not refuse to negotiate with the people with whom we were negotiating," Lobov underlined. At the same time he advocates changing the site for negotiations with Dudayev's camp.

Lobov said that he "still has no materials from the investigation into the bombardment of the village of Roshni-Chu in Chechnya's Urus-Martan region on October 8. General Anatoliy Shkirko, federal forces commander in Chechnya, issued an order prohibiting the use of aviation, artillery, and mortars against populated centers," Lobov reported. "Any violation of this order will be criminally punished," he underlined.

The military prosecutor's office has already finished investigation and transferred materials on 25 criminal cases to the court. These proceedings were instigated against servicemen who committed different crimes on Chechen territory. At the same time local law enforcement bodies have exposed only two out of 300 cases on servicemen's murders committed over the last year, according to Lobov.

About 80 to 85 percent of all shelling against federal forces in Chechnya take place in Groznyy, Lobov said. "Additional security measures have been undertaken in Groznyy due to the threat of an attack. In particular, the number of posts has been increased."

In an article published by the GROZNENSKIY RABOCHIY newspaper, former chairman of Russia's Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov spoke in favor of "stopping the criminal case against Dudayev and transforming him into a legal subject of the negotiations" with the Russian government delegation. Commenting on Khasbulatov's words, Lobov reported that there was no such proposal in a note sent by Khasbulatov to Russian President Boris Yeltsin about two weeks ago.

"I'd like to ask lawyers to consider this issue from the juridical point of view and and then from the political point of view," Lobov said.

Lobov Meets Khasbulatov in Groznyy

LD0411143395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Presidential Envoy to Chechnya and Security Council head Oleg Lobov met ex-Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov in Groznyy today.

The meeting discussed Khasbulatov proposals on Chechen settlement, including a possibility to cancel criminal proceedings against Dzhokhar Dudayev and involve him in negotiations, first deputy director of federal civilian administration in Chechnya Vladimir Zorin told INTERFAX.

Zorin said the Russian delegation is prone to consider this proposal "as a legal non-political issue."

Khasbulatov informed Lobov of his recent meetings with head of the Dudayev delegation to the Groznyy talks Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov and Chief of Staff of Chechen rebel forces Aslan Maskhadov.

The interlocutors were unanimous in their opinion "there is no alternative to peaceful settlement in Chechnya," said Zorin.

Rebels Respond Positively to Proposal

LD0511161095 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Dudayevites' delegation at the Chechen peace talks are receiving with interest Ruslan Khasbulatov's latest initiatives aimed at normalization of the situation in the republic, the head of the delegation, Yerikhanov, told INTERFAX. He said that everything said by Khasbulatov is not devoid of sense. In particular, Khasbulatov suggested that a document should be signed which can be preliminarily called On the Foundations of Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic and that criminal proceedings against Dzhokhar Dudayev should be discontinued.

Zorin: No Negogiations Under Military Threat

LD0411143795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — While both President Boris Yeltsin and his envoy to Chechnya, Oleg Lobov, both favor peace talks with Dudayev, Moscow is not prepared to negotiate under threat of military force, Deputy head of the Russian delegation in Groznyy Vladimir Zorin, first deputy director of federal civilian administration in Chechnya told INTERFAX Saturday.

Earlier Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov had spoken about the need to stop the dialogue with Dudayev's supporters and to negotiate with separate field commanders. Kulikov's recent statement is "a warning to the Dudayev delegation that the federal center will not permit [the separatists] to speak from a position of coercive pressure," said Zorin.

"It was the minister's private point of view," Zorin said.

Speaking about prospects in the Groznyy talks, Zorin said "much would depend upon the position of Dudayev's representatives, who display much emotion and less constructivism."

"There are no direct contacts between the two delegations," he underlined. The contact group continues its meetings only in the framework the Special Observer Commission.

Shkirko Concerned Over Missing Servicemen

LD0511184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — Commander of Federal Troops in Chechnya, Lt. Gen. Anatoliy Shkirko said he did not think it possible to renew the activity of the Special Observer Commission until the fate of two missing servicemen became known.

"I cannot seat at the table and hold talks with Aslan Maskhadov while the fate of Lieutenant-Colonel Maksimenkov and soldier Morozov, who are missing since October 22, is between us," Shkirko told an INTERFAX correspondent.

"This is a matter of honor and mutual trust," he said.

Shkirko repeated that Lieutenant-Colonel Valeriy Maksimenkov and soldier Morozov had been instructed to accompany Maskhadov in order to ensure his safe passing through the federal troops' positions. "In his turn, Maskhadov guaranteed safety for the Russian servicemen when going through populated areas where no federal troops are deployed," Shkirko said.

Shkirko said the two Russian servicemen had disappeared precisely in a section of Maskhadov's way uncontrolled by federal troops.

Shkirko said he had not revealed the incident and "did not give interviews" for ten days hoping that the Russian servicemen would be found. "All this time Maskhadov is just giving promises. However, the fate of the Russian servicemen remains unknown," he said.

Shkirko said he would be ready to resume the Special Observer Commission's activity for implementing the July 30 military agreement as soon as this problem was resolved.

The activity of the Special Observer Commission was in fact suspended after the assassination attempt on the life of Federal Troops Commander, Lt. Gen. Anatoliy Romanov on October 6 and the bombardment of the Roshni-Chu village, southern Chechnya, on October 8.

Rebels Warned Not To Start Another War

LD0411105895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 4 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The federal troops' positions in Chechnya were fired on 32 times in the last 24 hours. The Defense Ministry's press center reported that an armored reconnaissance road vehicle and a military truck of the 236th Motorized Rifle Regiment were blown up by a controlled mine to the west of the populated center of Avtury on Friday; three servicemen were killed.

In response to this provocation, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Naumov, commander of the Russian army group, said: "If the Dudayev's side is trying to unleash a war, that is what they will get."

Among the weapons confiscated in the past 24 hours are 27 grenades, 12 grenade launchers, 24 artillery shells, and dozens of hand grenades, the press release says.

Grachev: Troops 'Prepared' for Winter

LD0411192595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1921 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Saturday that federal troops were completely prepared for the coming winter in Chechnya.

Speaking before the press at Moscow's Central House of the Russian Army, Grachev noted that the government had allotted over two trillion roubles for the winter preparations in the republic.

Grachev described newly-built prefabricated wooden barracks as "relatively warm in winter conditions." Although such barracks are not the best protection from bullets, they have been built at safe sites, he said.

Tent camps, with each tent having a heating system and being protected from bullets and fragments by banks, were established in areas with higher troops concentration and near check-points. Problems with clothes, food, fuel, and lubricants have been solved, Grachev said.

At that time, money came from extra-budget sources. In future, however, Russian troops' upkeep in Chechnya will be financed from the federal budget, the minister said.

Shkirko: Troops Taking 'Additional Measures'

LD0511213995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — The top Russian military commander in Chechnya said he possessed "information that Chechen fighters are preparing large-scale provocations" and therefore the Russian army "has taken additional measures to prevent the destabilization of the situation."

"There is information that preparations are under way for committing terrorist acts in place where there are congestions of people so that the blame is subsequently laid on federal forces," Gen. Anatoliy Shkirko told INTERFAX.

He said Chechen fighters had gone over to sabotage and terrorism seeing that "active hostilities... Are a hopeless enterprise."

The general said Russian officers were obeying orders not to shell populated areas but if Chechen fighters fired at Russian troops from towns or villages "such firing positions will be suppressed."

He said Moscow would keep its troops in Chechnya "for as long as there is a threat to the safety of the population and until illegal armed formations have their armaments confiscated from them and put in depots or destroyed."

Shkirko said the Russian command knew where Chechen rebel forces were deployed. He said their armaments included armored vehicles and multiple rocket launchers. "In case illegal armed formations unleash active hostilities we will destroy all those armaments," he threatened.

Going over to current political developments in Chechnya, he said "positive tendencies have begun to manifest themselves" after Doku Zavgayev, who headed the parliament of the Soviet-era Chechen-Ingush parliament, was appointed head of the Moscow-installed provisional government. "Nevertheless one cannot say that today the government of the Chechen Republic has influence on all the regions of the republic and has full control of all the processes that are taking place here," he said.

Yarikhanov: Field Commanders Remain Loyal

LD0311145595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — No Chechen field commander has announced his intention to leave the Dudayev team or to act independently, head of the Dudayev delegation to the Groznyy talks Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov told correspondents in the Chechen capital Friday, when commenting on the October 31 statement of Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov.

At that time the Minister said dialogues should be held with field commanders instead of the Dudayev side, which must be excluded from the political process of the talks.

"Moscow has long tried to split the Dudayev side, but these attempts have been fruitless," said Yarikhanov.

He urged against changing the location of Special Observer Commission meetings. At the same time, Yarikhanov thought it expedient to hold "on neutral grounds" the negotiations between the Russian government delegation and the Dudayev side, bearing in mind the "safety of the Dudayev delegation is not ensured in Groznyy.'

In Yarikhanov's words, representatives of the federal troops command have not attended working meetings with Dudayev representatives in the past few days. "The reasons for their absence are being investigated by the OSCE mission," said Yarikhanov.

Commenting on prospects of the Special Observer Commission resuming work, Yarikhanov noted contradictory statements by Russian officials on the issue.

He reminded correspondents that first deputy head of the federal civilian administration in Chechnya and deputy head of the Russian government delegation to the Groznyy talks Vladimir Zorin said Thursday that the Commission can continue its meetings as soon as Chief of Staff of Chechen forces Aslan Maskhadov wishes to do so.

On the same day, federal troops commander and Co-Chairman of the Special Observer Commission Anatoliy Shkirko accused the other Commission Co-Chairman Aslan Maskhadov of knowing about the recent murders of Russian servicemen near Vedeno (Chechen south).

"Russian officials should first coordinate their stands," said Yarikhanov.

Yarikhanov: No Weekend Armed Attacks Planned

*LD0411211195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1904 GMT 4 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, head of the Dudayev supporters' delegation at talks on settlement in Chechnya said Chechen militants do not plan armed attacks for the upcoming weekend.

Dudayev supporters do not plan any military operations or the seizure of Groznyy in particular, he told INTERFAX Saturday.

Presidential Envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov told a news conference in Groznyy Friday that the seizure of the Chechen capital is planned for November 5. "Additional security measures have been taken in connection with the threat of an attack on Groznyy," he said.

Yarikhanov believes that "official federal representatives themselves aggravate the difficult situation in Chechnya."

Yarikhanov Denies Kulikov's Death Sentence

*LD0411213395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1535 GMT 4 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — The top Chechen delegate to talks with Moscow on Friday denied a report that a council of Chechen field commanders had sentenced Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov to death.

"The Chechen Republic has its own judiciary body. All forms of punishment are ordered by the Supreme Court alone," Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov told INTERFAX.

He said councils of field commanders had not taken any such decisions and were not authorized to take them.

Field commanders have no plans to pass a capital sentence on anyone, he said.

Rebels Blow Groznyy-Gudermes Bridge

*LD0611150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1420 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — Chechen rebels blew up a railway bridge across the Dzhalka river in the mid-way between Groznyy and Gudermes on Monday morning.

No casualties were reported, the Chechen Interior Ministry told INTERFAX.

"It's not for the first time that militants blow up this bridge just in order to exercise psychological pressure because the bridge is of no special strategic importance," an officer from the Chechen Interior Ministry said.

Head of Constitutional Court Interviewed

*MK0411144095 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA
in Russian No. 44, 2-8 Nov 95 p 4*

[Interview with Ikhvan Gerikhanov, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Chechen Republic, by Gennadiy Zhavoronkov; in Moscow, date not given: "The Chechen Solitaire Is Being Played in Moscow" — first two paragraphs are OBSHCHAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We found each other following the Budennovsk events. At the time he and his comrades managed to free more than 2,000 hostages. Shamil Basayev agreed to enter into personal negotiations only with him and nobody else. Ikhvan Gerikhanov is an expert in international law, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Chechen Republic. A man of spotless reputation whose assessments are always carefully balanced and objective.

This time Ikhvan Gerikhanov came to OBSHCHAYA GAZETA's editorial offices himself.

[Gerikhanov] In December 1994, when the threat of massive human rights violations emerged, we succeeded in resuming the work of the Constitutional Court. We perceived ourselves as a third force capable of restoring peace in the Chechen land, of becoming, if you like, a kind of bridge between two [river] banks. But this did not materialize through the fault of Russia's top legislative and executive bodies....

We did not return to Groznyy until September 1995. The first thing we did was to conduct our own appraisal of the death toll from the conflict. As of now 50,000 civilians have been killed. Hostilities in Chechnya have not ceased to date despite the fact that this is the main provision of the current agreement. There was no exchange of prisoners of war, although it was planned within a week of the agreement's being signed.

[Zhavoronkov] Meanwhile, it is often impossible to understand the identity of particular warring groups. When in Chechnya, I met those who proudly stated that they were not affiliated with anybody and acted on their own. But we persistently call everybody Dudayevites, as though affected by moral colorblindness.

[Gerikhanov] I have traveled to nearly all districts in the republic and talked with various field commanders. Some are consistent supporters of Dudayev. Others are people whose home villages were burned down, and they took up arms to avenge their dead relatives. Thus, Alavdin Khamzatov, who stormed Argun and proclaimed himself its commandant, was killed as a result of a blood feud. With a grenade launcher. There are also marauder gangs on both sides.

As Constitutional Court chairman, I appealed to all conflicting sides to get together at a roundtable in Shali. Subsequently all sides sent their representatives. The subjects discussed were why there was effectively no exchange of prisoners of war and why the surrender of weapons had stopped. They agreed in their explanations. The exchange of POWs was frozen because the military is afraid to admit the execution of POWs without trial and the beating, torture, and electrical shock treatment of civilians. Some were transported as far as Vladivostok. I spoke with such people myself. Weapons are not being given up because there is no particular wish to receive them. Basayev told me that he is ready to surrender 60,000 weapons. On 18 September and on 4 October they brought two trucks full of arms to the village of Sharo-Argun, but nobody came to take them. Then it transpired that there was no money to pay for the weapons.

[Zhavoronkov] In Chechnya one is immediately struck by the sharp difference between contract army servicemen and conscripts; moreover, they try to stay as far apart from each other as possible. The contract servicemen have settled down, gotten callous [zamatereli], and are in no hurry to leave. The enlisted men are in a terrible plight, counting every day before demobilization.

[Gerikhanov] At the roundtable, we also talked about relations between the army and the civilian population. There is a sympathetic attitude toward the enlisted men. People invite them to their homes, feed them, never refuse their requests. Even the irreconcilables try not to touch them. The contract servicemen, on the other hand, engage in rampant looting, and are naturally hated. We are documenting a list of their crimes against civilians.

[Zhavoronkov] Surely you began with Samashki? Everybody is tormented by the question: Why did the troops act so brutally in April when capturing this village, executing peaceful civilians? I have my own explanation. Shortly before the tragedy I was there during an army operation. It was conducted in an incompetent, even criminal manner. Within seconds some 20 soldiers were killed. And how many more such attempts have there been since then? The storming troops could not fail to know about the death of their comrades and therefore were brutal in avenging them. Not on their foolish commanders, though, but on peaceful civilians.

[Gerikhanov] Samashki to us is the same as Katyn for the Belarusians. I myself saw 363 burned houses. There is a list of 96 murdered rural residents. Not combatants, but simple peasants. Sooner or later someone will have to answer for this. And they do not want to answer. When you are looking for people who are in the party of war, you should be looking among these people. Also among those who have made fabulous capital on the Chechen slaughterhouse. The perpetrators of the terrorist act against General Romanov should also be looked for among them.

[Zhavoronkov] Military people say that gunmen trained in Turkey and Afghanistan are fighting in Chechnya. I have looked for such persistently, asking to be shown at least one. They did not show me, although they continued to maintain....

[Gerikhanov] The Russian president also said that all Chechens are bandits, supported and fed by Turkey and Afghanistan. Let this be on his conscience. The people cannot be eliminated. The roundtable was unanimous: Myths are even more destructive than "Grad" multiple rocket launchers. They can freeze the negotiating process, incite mistrust toward Russia. And what about the constant setting of some groups against others? Or the separation of opposition forces into "friends" and "foes"? If this is peacemaking, what is war then? The National Accord Committee, created by Moscow, has become in effect a committee of national discord.

The roundtable came to a consensus: an immediate and unconditional cease-fire, the exchange of POWs, disarmament, and an equally immediate withdrawal of federal troops. And then elections with the participation of all candidates. There is simply no other road to stabilization, whoever might be proposing another path.

Now, what is Moscow doing? It recalls Avturkhanov and Khadzhiyev, promotes them, replacing them with Zavgayev and appointing him head of the Chechen government. The roundtable consensus, i.e. the accord by representatives of all forces in Chechnya, goes down the drain. We have been shown once again that the question of peace will be decided not by us, representatives of the Chechen people, but by Moscow's armchair leaders. Why appoint, not choose, Zavgayev? This is illegal! The war actually started with a violation of law. And it is illegality that allows it to go on.

I phone Khadzhiyev: "What is this new solitaire with the government all about?" He says: "This cannot be discussed over the phone." This means again secrets, intrigue, not an honest way to peace. We are back where we started.... [interview ends]

P.S. Sources close to the Defense Ministry General Staff indicate that Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of federal troops in Chechnya, has issued an order allowing limited combat action on the republic territory.

The most terrible thing has happened: Hostilities have resumed in Chechnya, even if not on a full scale yet. The flywheel of a new stage of war has apparently been set in motion, and it is difficult to stop it.

March 1996 Deadline for Elections Seen

LD0411223395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1904 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Union of the People for Revival of the Chechen Republic Ruslan Khasbulatov said he thought March 1996 to be the deadline for holding elections to republican and local authorities in Chechnya.

Consultations with a wide range of political forces in Chechnya should be conducted for this purpose, Khasbulatov told a press conference in Groznyy today. He believed that preparations for elections in Chechnya largely depended on the Dudayev side.

Khasbulatov mentioned his meeting with Dudayev's chief negotiator at talks with the federal authorities on settlement in Chechnya Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov and Co-Chairman of the Special Observer Commission Aslan Maskhadov last Friday. He said they were "ready to contribute to the holding of honest elections in the republic if the activity of the interim administration in Chechnya contributes to it."

"This made me happy," Khasbulatov said.

Khasbulatov said the Dudayev side wanted prosecution immunity for "resistance fighters." Khasbulatov said that during his meeting with presidential envoy in Chechnya Oleg Lobov today, Lobov told him about the intended creation of a special commission under the presidential envoy, which could deal with guarantees for non-prosecution. Khasbulatov quoted Lobov as saying that "the federal authorities have no questions concerning this problem." He said Lobov had shown complete understanding of the necessity for guaranteeing such non-prosecution, adding that this proved Lobov took his peacemaking mission very seriously.

Restoration Commission Sums Up Work

MM0611112995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "Hospitals and Schools and in Some Places Apartment Blocks Are Starting To Be Heated in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Thursday the state commission for the restoration of Chechnya's economy and social sphere headed by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets summed up the results of the financing of restoration in October and earmarked money for November.

In October 1.374 trillion rubles [R] were channeled into the republic. Some departments received less than planned, for instance the Rosagropromstroy [expansion unknown] received R80 billion instead of the promised R140 billion. The Federal Migration Service received R45 billion instead of R60 billion, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food R39 billion instead of R60 billion. So far Roskhlebprodukt, which is sending flour to the republic on credit, and the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Medical Industry have received nothing so far. It is true that state commission first deputy chairman Petr Surov threatened the Federal Migration Service and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that he would give no more money: The former was required first of all to give back money to pay compensation to people but instead had rushed to buy trailers, while the Ministry of Agriculture and Food had asked for seeds but spent the money on something else and is again asking for R40 billion for seeds.

There are departments which have received more money than planned: The MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] received R65 billion instead of R40 billion, the Ministry of Transport R63 billion instead of R33 billion, while the railroad troops received R16.6 billion instead of R10 billion. In all R7.4 trillion should to on Chechnya's restoration this year. This sum includes budget appropriations, bank credits, treasury bonds, and tax exemptions.

In November approximately the same amount of money should go to Chechnya as in October. The recipients are approximately 35 departments and organizations and the funds are going to them strictly according to procedure, in order of size. The November list is opened by the Ministry of Construction, the Rosagropromstroy, the Defense Ministry, the MVD, and the Spetsstroy [exact expansion unknown].

Russian Construction Minister Yefim Basin has said that in Groznyy today there are 19 construction organizations working and 10 boiler houses have already been completed and 18 are being completed while work has been finished on a main heating system and an additional boiler house has been commissioned in the city's sixth microrayon, where there has never been heating before, and sewerage has been installed.

There is heating in 123 rural schools while 197 are still without heat. There was a special discussion about heating the cities of Gudermes and Argun. In Argun three schools are being heated and a further two will start to be heated in November while two will be provided with temporary heating. There will be heating in November in the city hospital. In Gudermes 200 houses have been restored (the commission chairman immediately asked the Chechen Government representative whether this was the case and the latter nodded), of five schools two are permanently heated while temporary heating has been installed in three, two hospitals have been repaired, and temporary heating has been installed there too. So far the central rayon hospitals are not being heated in Vedeno, Nozhay-Yurt, and Shatoy-Yurt. But there is heating in 68 hospitals in the republic. The Argun heat and electric power station has been almost restored.

Ivan Gorbachev, chairman of the Russian Trade Committee, said that in about 50 days kerosene lamps from China will be delivered to the republic. They not only provide light but also heat housing with an area of 15 square meters. The premier himself supported the idea of buying these lamps. Especially as there is now enough kerosene in Chechnya.

Mikhaylov Heads New Osset-Ingush Conflict Commission

MK0511063995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Natalya Gorodetskaya: "Boris Yeltsin Ordered That Ingushetia and North Ossetia Cooperate. The Republics Decided That Money for Restoration of What Has Been Ruined and for Return of Refugees Can Become a Guarantee of Friendship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's order by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on a commission headed by Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, minister for nationalities' affairs and regional policy, to be set up in order to prepare a draft agreement on normalizing relations and on cooperation between the republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic, met with a mixed reaction.

This order seems to have been born after the Russian president was informed about the results of the work of yet another commission, comprising officials from 15 federal ministries and departments, representatives of North Ossetia, Ingushetia, and the Interim State Committee for Curing the Wounds of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict, which was supposed to "boost cooperation between the governments of the republics." Unfortunately, such orders, despite the fact that they come from the president, are not binding for anyone in any respect.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent was told at the press center of the president of Ingushetia that the drafting of an agreement on cultural and economic cooperation between the two republics has been under way for several months now, and it is too early yet to speak about something bigger than that, i.e., full-scale cooperation. According to Kureysh Agasiyev, press secretary of Ruslan Aushev, even the signing of this agreement depends — so the Ingush president said a month ago, after the meeting of the North Ossetian and the Ingushetian leaders with Boris Yeltsin — on wiping away the tears of the 1992 Ossetian-Ingush conflict. In other words, the signing of this agreement depends on the search for the missing Ingush people, the return of the refugees, and the "creation of decent living conditions for them."

The Ossetian side believes that the main obstacle to the return of the refugees and, correspondingly, the restoration of normal relations with Ingushetia, is insufficient funding by the federal government. A decision on "a joint request of the republics for stable funding of restoration work" in Prigorodnyy Rayon of North Ossetia has already matured. In addition, the press secretary of the North Ossetian Mission in Russia [as published; rather, in Moscow] voiced a request to all Russian departments (including Ingush ones, too) not to aggravate the situation by accusing each other of "squealing and lying," like in the Sleptsovskaya airport case.

Vladivostok Port Blames 'Currency Corridor' for Losses

LD0411190795 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vyacheslav Pertsev, vice president of the joint stock company Vladivostok Trade Port, has told the Economic News Agency that profits from processing exports have dropped on average by 30 percent. He said that because of the "currency corridor," profits from exports are falling and expenses rising. The port is losing money, as are many other major exporters. This year imports are 33 percent down on 1994, whereas the volume of exports is 40 percent up. Exports are increasing because the West Siberian and Kemerovo metal combines are selling more metal via Vladivostok to Japan, China, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

Moscow Gives Permission To Mark October Anniversary

LD0311140595 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1200 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Moscow the city council has given permission to the Communist Party and other left-wing movements to hold mass meetings and a demonstration on the 7th of November to mark the 78th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution. A big meeting is to be held near the monument to Karl Marx in the center of the city. There will be no demonstration on Red Square near the mausoleum of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, which was usually held under the communist regime.

Earlier the State Duma debated the question of how to mark the anniversary of the 1917 October Socialist Revolution in a democratic Russia where it is no longer a national holiday. The deputies decided there could be different political assessments of the revolution but the history of the country and traditions of the people cannot be rewritten.

The 78th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution will also be marked in Ukraine, Belarus, and a number of other CIS countries.

Yakutia Court Lets MP's Decide on Referendum

MK0511063895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed "Provincial Chronicle" report from Yakutsk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yakutia's Constitutional Court has ruled on the inquiry by several parliament deputies regarding the legitimacy of holding a referendum on extending the powers of incumbent President Mikhail Nikolayev. In its ruling, Yakutia's Constitutional Court did not express its opinion on the essence of the problem in question, having noted that holding referendums is a parliamentary prerogative. At the same time, in accordance with the court's ruling, neither the constitution nor the laws of the republic ban referendums directly. The parliament session which will make a decision on the referendum will convene on 14 November.

Election Monitoring Group Set Up in Kursk Region

LD0511215795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] For Honest and Democratic Elections [Za Chestnyye I Demokraticheskiye Vybory] — this is the name of a new public organization that was set up in Kursk Region.

Those who initiated this idea of public control over the elections are the Region's association of voters, the Democratic Choice of Russia movement, the Derzhava movement, the Communists, republicans, and representatives of over 10 other various political associations. In its work this pre-election headquarters will focus on its contacts with voters in order to expose violations in the preparation to the elections and increase the political activity of the residents of Kursk Region. Our region, like many others, has certain problems here. This became clear during the registration of lists of signatures. Over 40 candidates rushed to register their signature lists at first but a check-up established that over 20 percent of signature lists were faulty. So, only 16 candidates from Kursk Region are now contending for two deputy mandates. The latest opinion polls show that the Communists and representatives of the Agrarian Party of Russia are in the lead.

Irkutsk Electoral Coalition Announcement Reported

964F0290B Irkutsk VOSTOCHNO-SIBIRSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 1

["Announcement of the Irkutsk Oblast Electoral Commission"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 9 November 1995, at 1000, on the first floor of the oblast administration, the Irkutsk Oblast administration and electoral commission will hold an oblast teleconference on issues of organizing the activities of territorial and precinct electoral commissions, organizational and methodological support for the elections, procedures for conducting campaign propaganda by candidates for deputy of the State Duma, and other issues.

Chairmen of district and territorial electoral commissions, heads of groups for assisting the election campaign formed under city and rayon administrations, administrators of affairs and heads of organizational services of oblast city and rayon administrations are invited to participate in the teleconference.

The conference is estimated to take one hour.

After the teleconference, the oblast electoral commission will hold a meeting with the participation of heads of oblast mass media, where lots will be drawn by candidates for deputy of the State Duma running in single-seat electoral districts and regional groups of candidates for scheduling the availability of air time on channels of the Irkutsk State Television and Radio Company for campaign propaganda.

Candidates for deputy of the State Duma and authorized representatives of electoral coalitions and blocs, candidates' authorized representatives, and members of the mass media are invited.

Novosibirsk Administration Roundtable Reviewed

964F0290A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by A. Zharinov, under the rubric "Roundtable": "Governor of Accord"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This was the title of a "roundtable" of political parties and social movements on the subject of the election of the head of the Novosibirsk Oblast administration. The public initiative for holding it came from Sergey Kibirev, president of the Piksistem corporation (which builds housing, supplies the city's population with foodstuffs, and delivers petroleum products to the oblast).

At first glance, it is hard to explain the "public effort" of entrepreneurs in the "business of shaping a Novosibirsk governor of accord." Nevertheless, there certainly is a connection. And not just altruistic.

"For us, it is not important who the governor is—what is important is equal terms in competition, and the stability of the oblast's financial and economic system. What is important is how ordinary people live and work and how they feel about us, businessmen."

By the way, the subject of "ordinary people's attitude to the rich" was brought up at the "roundtable" in a more substantive way: prevent exacerbation of the conflict in society and avert a social explosion. As was noted, this is something that "seriously concerns honest businessmen" these days.

There was a considerable response to the "roundtable" idea. At least, most of the prominent parties and movements in the city gathered at the designated time at the headquarters at 64 Kamenskaya St. Among those who supported the "roundtable" idea were A.N. Manokhin, V.P. Mukhoy, and I.V. Starikov, who intend to run for governor. A.P. Manannikov and I.I. Indinok also were invited but did not respond.

Another contender for this role, oblast council deputy P.N. Isayev, suddenly "bifurcated," having made another widely broadcast statement for the press: He will run in the elections but does not want to be elected governor. Many saw this not as a cunning political move but rather as ordinary politicking, the desire to play to the public. Because Isayev also is registered as a candidate for State Duma deputy.

Let us go back to the substance of the conversation, though. Representatives of the parties and movements discussed a number of current problems with which, in their opinion, the governor will need to deal. Despite the participants' differing political shades, the lists of their proposals often coincided. From the results of a poll conducted on the spot the following rating of such problems emerged: crime and investment in production—8 points; payment of pensions and wages—7 points; fuel and petroleum products supplies— 5; problems of the countryside—4; and the bread and housing questions—3.

I will not enumerate all the problems that were raised. They number about 20. We can assume that when gubernatorial hopefuls become candidates and take part in a "roundtable," they will offer their vision of the oblast's problems and ways to solve them.

The "roundtable" participants also attempted to outline the image of the future governor, the required qualifications for the job, and the personal characteristics (including being a good family man or a bachelor). This advice was undoubtedly very useful. Going mentally through the list of known candidates, however, I caught myself thinking that currently none of them are likely to fit this ideal.

Overall, the beginning of a dialogue inspires a certain optimism. It has been a long time since local politicians discussed such crucial issues with such fervor.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Sets Terms for Sale of State-Owned Shares

MK0311145895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[AFI report: "Terms for Realization of State-Owned Shares Put in Pledge Have Been Set"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president has set the time to start realization of state-owned shares of privatized enterprises that are put in pledge. In accordance with an edict signed yesterday, organizations given shares of enterprises in pledge will be able to sell them not earlier than 1 September 1996. According to the presidential press service, Boris Yeltsin believes that "this period of time is sufficient for the pledge mechanism to show its efficiency." At the same time, in accordance with Russian Federation laws, the term for having shares of some enterprises secured as state property expires in December 1995.

Federal Stake in Sale of Shares Delayed

MK0511134895 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Podlipskiy: "The Banks Can Be Delivered of Encumbrance in Nine Months"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now it has become clear that in making the decision to use federal holdings in a loans-for-shares scheme this summer, the government executed it in a rather careless manner. The day before yesterday the broad debate on the content of the "loans-for-shares" basket and the amount of stocks involved was supplemented by yet another subject. As reported earlier, President Yeltsin signed an edict pushing back the sale of federal stocks by at least nine months. This document is also unusual in that it is the only one (at least as of yesterday) which the president has signed in spite of his infirmity.

The substantive part of the edict, signed at the Central Clinical Hospital, is very simple. The date when companies or banks that have won the loans-for-shares auction may sell government stakes has been moved from 1 January to 1 September 1996. Thus, the loans-for-shares scheme, approved in August, has undergone its most serious modification to date.

It needs to be noted that the "interests concerned" have reacted rather sluggishly to the emergence of this document. An Onesksimbank official observed that "the bank does not as a matter of policy comment on government decisions, and, generally speaking, it is up to the authorities to decide how to dispose of government shares." The stock market was abuzz with vague rumors that "all this is Oneksimbank's work." Meanwhile, some brokers expressed their satisfaction with the edict's content: "On 2 January there will be no fear of a market collapse owing to a mass dumping of shares held in trust." This is a rather strange commentary: Shares may be sold only on the authorization of the Federal Property Fund, and there should be no major dumping in any event. The positive aspect of this document could manifest itself in a slightly different form. The appearance of lists of enterprises whose shares will be placed in trust as collateral has caused a fall in their paper quotations. The postponement of additional portions of shares appearing on the market could theoretically revive the dynamics of prices for these enterprises' equities. This opinion in particular is shared by Yuriy Zverev, deputy chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund [RFFI].

Be that as it may, the banks (or any other winners at loans-for-shares auctions) will have to work with the shares received for nine months. Or, in the president's words, "demonstrate the effectiveness of the loans-for-shares mechanism." To all appearances, the worst hit will be those auction participants who originally oriented themselves toward speculative transactions: The old procedure allowed, as of 2 January, to press the RFFI for authorization to sell shares. Now the authorities have acquired immunity to such pressure. However, the reasons for the emergence of the edict "On the Time Frame for the Realization of Federally-Owned Shares Placed in Trust in 1995" are not confined to this.

The way this document was signed is of major importance for clarifying the other reasons. The edict was signed by Yeltsin at the Central Clinical Hospital (this alone makes it stand apart) immediately after the sick president was visited by his first aide Viktor Ilyushin. A little earlier Boris Yeltsin's economic assistant, Aleksandr Livshits, had stated that "the CFS — Cede-the-Federal-Stake — party" is emerging as a rather influential force. Earlier KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote about this new phenomenon. Now one other aspect needs to be analyzed.

The presidential edict has become a kind of compromise between the authorities and this informal group. Those eager to get the federal stake have received assurances from the authorities that there is time to adjust any decision: In nine months money can be raised from the budget and creditor banks can be repaid not with proceeds from the sale of shares but from state funds, which is allowed under the current setup. Meanwhile, shares "salvaged" from the banks can in some manner or other be handed over to an outstanding figure in the "CFS party." Moreover, in this event the banks themselves will not be any the worse off: 270 days is quite enough time to make sure that shares can be sold at a price higher than the credit sum. If the forecasts are not justified, they can themselves ask the government to repay the credit from the budget. Ask it informally, of course.

Impact of Yeltsin's Illness on Markets Assessed

MK0411134295 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 44, 2-8 Nov 95 p 5

[Unattributed exclusive report: "Troubled Expectation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This is how the state of Russian financial markets in connection with Boris Yeltsin's illness has been characterized by Andrey Nechayev, president of the Russian Financial Corporation.

Russian banks hurt by the introduction of the hard-currency "corridor" will soon receive some compensation in the form of government decisions. As for those who like to get earnings from GKO's — state short-term bonds — they should remember that the government intends to take all possible measures to bring down the profitability of these securities. This and some other news was learned by members of the Moscow Financial Club — led by the president of the Russian Financial Corporation, Andrey Nechayev — during their scheduled meeting [date not given].

After the session, club president Andrey Nechayev came up with a forecast, at the request of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, of the situation on Russian financial markets in connection with the sudden illness of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

[Nechayev] Right from the start, the reaction on world markets to the news of the president's illness was more nervous and significant than Russian market reaction. First, the Deutsche mark dropped sharply — by one percent (which is a trifle by our standards, and almost a plunge by world standards). The arguments of currency speculators are understandable: Germany is our main creditor and one of the biggest investors in Russia, etc. And if Russia is in for sharp changes, both material and political difficulties are unavoidable in Germany. [passages omitted]

The Russian home market reacted rather weakly: At first, the dollar went up sharply on the futures market (many dealers tried to "play it safe" for the next month or two) but literally two hours later, the rates once again went down and the [dollar leap] did not materialize. The shares market is in a state of stagnation as it is, and it is hard for it to react to anything. But the situation may further worsen, because the main buyers there are Western companies, and they will wait before investing their money.

Any "panic" is out of the question. Sharp changes in the financial market are possible if there is word of the president's retirement. In that event one can expect a serious fall in the price of shares, as well as in interest in Finance Ministry bonds. So far there is hope that the president's illness is a temporary phenomenon, as it was in the summer. If Viktor Chernomyrdin becomes acting president, there would probably be no serious changes in the internal Russian financial market. It is true that one would expect a serious rise in prices on the futures market.

Soskovets: Transitional Economy Needs State Backing

LD0411171095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (ITAR-TASS) — The effort to stabilise the economy dictates over and over again the need for state regulation, primarily in the sphere of industry's structural reorganisation. This view was expressed by Russian First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets during a talk with journalists here today.

The experience of regulating advanced market economies in some leading western countries, he pointed out, shows that the reduction of state interference in the sphere of entrepreneurship during the alteration of an economic regulation model is less important than the more active use of financing, taxing, crediting, and exporting policies. "And this, in turn, allows to replace direct state interference by its indirect influence on processes occurring in the industry," he noted.

The Vice-Premier mentioned among the main areas of such state activity the latter's "constructive interference in the reform of industrial structures and in the creation of a mechanism for providing new technologies to the industry". He presumes that the government is now beginning to actively use this method by resorting to the contest placing of budget investments. In his opinion, the creation of financial-industrial groups, and also holdings with a weighty participation of the state, is yet another such area. An example of this is the recently created "Russian Metallurgy" Joint-Stock Society, where the state's share amounts to 51 per cent. "This," Soskovets noted, "creates conditions for granting the tied credits, now obtained from abroad, directly to the enterprises. I believe that state support to the leading sectors of industry is imperatively necessary in a transitional economy."

Soskovets further pointed out that the idea of national accumulation should become the crux of all changes in the ideology of the reforms at the new stage of the country's economic transformation.

Asked by ITAR-TASS whether the upcoming Duma elections would influence the policy of reforms, Soskovets noted that the Russian economy was already sufficiently stable and no outside factors would affect its progress.

The First Vice-Premier believes that next year's foreign investments could be expected to grow to two billion U.S. dollars. Moreover, he noted that the share of the fuel and energy complex would account for 74-85 trillion roubles in the total volume of capital investments coming from all the country's financial sources. The volume of investments in the other industrial complexes of Russia would range from 7 to 27 trillion roubles. It is planned to invest next year 175 trillion roubles in production projects out of a total of 310 trillions.

Speaking about the government's prognosis for 1996, Soskovets noted that it was based on the following preconditions: continuation of the tough financial-budget regime, reduction of the budget deficit to four per cent of the gross domestic product, perpetuation of the non-inflationary principle of financing the budget deficit, reduction of the taxation burden, and higher tax revenues, obtained by reducing the number of tax privileges.

Chubays: Low Inflation Stops Talk of Economic Crash

LD0411142295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1118 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (INTERFAX) — Last month's low inflation level proves wrong the predictions of a possible financial crash in Russia this autumn, First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays declared in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX.

Commenting on price increases of as little as 4.7 percent registered by the State Statistics Committee in October, Chubays said that "throughout three months inflation in the country has been under 5 percent, unprecedented for the last four years. October has stopped once and for all the tumultuous discussion regarding a financial collapse in autumn."

Chubays noted that "the absolute majority of those who have taken part in this discussion have been convinced that a crash will take place in autumn, and their chief argument was a sharp inflation rise in the wake of the summer slump in 1994."

Even this September, he noted, a much lower level of inflation — 4.5 percent — was recorded as compared with 7.2 percent registered in September of 1994. Last month, inflation dropped 2.5 times already as compared with October of 1994, Chubays stressed.

Obviously, Chubays said, lower inflation proved a fact rather than wishful thinking. "We are convinced, he added, that the very financial policy of the government and Central Bank excludes a possible jump in prices this year, and there will be no disaster either in November or in December."

Touching upon 1996 budget debates in the State Duma, Chubays noted that "the cabinet opponents who suggested fixing an absurd rate of inflation at 5 percent a month in the budget just proceeded from the assumption that there would be a catastrophe in autumn." "Now when inflation has been holding under 5 percent for three months, it has become clear that we will see this year through with inflation below 5 percent," Chubays said.

On the whole, he favorably assessed a compromise reached between parliament and cabinet through the Conference Commission, a compromise, according to which the monthly rate of inflation in the budget is suggested to be fixed at 1.9 percent. "We accepted this compromise mainly for demonstrating the desire to search for solutions, although we believe that the level of 1.2 percent was absolutely feasible." Describing the Conference Commission's work, Chubays said that "so far it had been working smoothly." However, he stressed that "to fight inflation means above all to protect the poor rate than to engage in sports, it means the start of investment, the beginning of economic growth in earnest, and strong national currency."

Chubays on Decision To Ease Financial Burden on Banks

LD0311221095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2030 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — The Russian government has decided to ease the fiscal burden for banks, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview today.

When asked about allegations that his instructions to draft a corresponding interdepartmental letter had not been carried out, Chubays said the letter had already been signed by the State Tax Service, Finance Ministry and Central Bank.

The document, drafted by an interdepartmental working group created under presidential instructions, says some payments by banks to the reserves against possible losses on loans will not be taxed.

"This measure will have a different impact on various types of banks, depending on their credit policy," Chubays said. "For banks which were extending risky loans and found themselves in the most difficult situations, the measure will be very important. For banks whose situation was rather good, on the whole this is not such a big move," he said.

Chubays said this decision was "only one of the measures" on which the group was working in order to improve the situation in the banking sector.

"We believe that the present situation in the banking system is complicated and moves should be taken towards meeting the banking system's needs," Chubays said.

Conference on Economic Outlook Assessed

MM0311195095 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yelena Starostenkova: "Authorities Convinced of Correctness of Chosen Course" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The scientific and practical conference "The Russian Economy's Paths of Development in 1995-1997," held 27-28 October, was intended by its organizers, the Russian Ministry of Economics and the Commission for Economic Reform, to take the form of a purely professional discussion of the problems of macroeconomic policy, free from political passions. In this respect the conference can hardly be regarded as successful — many opponents of the present government course did not respond to the invitation to attend the conference and simply stayed away. However, it was difficult to expect anything else — academic arguments are powerless when confronted with the logic of politics, and the fate of the present course will actually be decided during the parliamentary elections rather than in a professional dispute among economists.

However, the conference did take place as a professional discussion of painful issues relating to the economic transformations, with a representative range of participants. The following took part in the work of the conference, which was opened by a speech from the Russian prime minister: High-ranking officials (A. Livshits, A. Chubays, Ye. Yasin, and S. Vasilyev), politicians (Ye. Gaydar, A. Shokhin, and S. Glazyev), and well-known academics (L. Abalkin, D. Lvov, and S. Dubinin).

The results of the past years of economic transformations have shown the impossibility of pursuing macroeconomic policy without considering its social costs. The assembly was equally unanimous in the view that state support for the investment process cannot be put off until the bright, inflation-free future. It is also impossible to resolve the problem of nonpayments by purely administrative measures. The attempt to establish a real fixed currency rate was also, albeit with reservations, categorized as "impossible." For all its advantages, a stable exchange rate has one serious drawback — this measure virtually places the ruble money supply outside the control of state organs.

The scope for the state to influence the progress of economic processes during the transitional period experienced by Russia today is far from boundless. This idea is well illustrated by the example of the problems besetting the state budget. No one is more aware of the advantages of a deficit-free budget than professional economists, but it is virtually impossible to achieve in present Russian conditions.

First, there are objective limits to the potential for cutting state expenditure (the lower limit is located at the level of 20 percent of GDP) and increasing the tax yield. Taxes as a proportion of GDP, currently standing at 13 percent, could be increased by at best 2 percent during next year.

Second, the budget comes under very strong pressure, and the situation is unlikely to change tomorrow. O. Vyugin, head of the Finance Ministry's Macroeconomics Department, reported that the budget deficit exceeded the absolute indicators of budget revenue during the first 25 days of October. With revenue of around 10 trillion rubles [R], the budget deficit, which is financed out of its own sources, has reached R12-13 trillion.

The potential for stimulating economic growth is pretty severely restricted. According to Ministry of Economics estimates, Russia needs $140 billion to achieve a steady growth trajectory. Even in ideal conditions, using all available internal sources and attracting foreign capital, no more than $120 billion could actually be accumulated. There is simply nowhere to obtain the additional $20 billion required. And there is therefore in practice only one strategic course of investment feasible — the course of boosting the efficiency of capital investments, which envisages the suppression of inflation, the lowering of refinancing rates, the expansion of the potential for extending long-term credit, and the allocation of existing investment resources by tender as essential prerequisites. In such a tender profitability of investment is the chief criterion for all spheres, excluding social and infrastructure projects.

The feeling that there is a real opportunity to bring inflation down below 50 percent per year may also be regarded as enjoying consensus. But the achievability of the figures of 1-2 percent per month put forward by the government generated serious doubts.

Perhaps the very notion of financial stabilization, which has undergone significant changes, represents the main distinguishing feature of today's discussion among economists on ways of developing the economy. In its present form the course of financial stabilization seems compatible with a pretty vigorous investment policy, protection of national investors, and a long-term state budget deficit.

National Debt in 1996 May Rise 35.2 Trillion Rubles

LD0411145295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1351 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 4 (FIA-INTERFAX) — The government has submitted to the State Duma (lower house) a draft law on amendments to the 1995 budget. It did so in the wake of the rise in the minimum wage to 55,000 rubles as of August 1.

The draft raises the upper limit of the internal debt by 35.2 trillion [rubles] following decisions on delivering supplies to areas in the Far North (25 trillion rubles), executing the pension fund's budget (1.6 trillion) and financing grain purchases into the federal reserves (3 trillion rubles).

The 1995 budget revenue is estimated at 215.9 trillion rubles, 40.7 trillion above the original level.

The bill provides for reducing the budget deficit by 12,8 trillion rubles (by 12.3 trillion at the expense of external sources of financing).

The indexing of wages and compensations to the population has increased spending by 11.0 trillion.

Spending on national defense and law enforcement has grown by 5.3 trillion.

Proposed spending on eliminating the effects of the armed conflict in Chechnya is set at 6.2 trillion rubles, including 5.1 trillion on the restoration of the economy and social infrastructures and the deployment of law enforcement and border guards. Additional payments to those affected by the Chechen crisis will total 0.5 trillion rubles and another 0.6 trillion will be extended to help narrow Chechnya's budget deficit.

Moscow, IMF Positions on Credit Disbursement Reported

LD0511202095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1410 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 5 (INTERFAX) — The positions of Russia and the IMF regarding the terms for the disbursement of the extended credit are quite close, Director General of the Russian Privatization Center Maksim Boyko told INTERFAX in an interview with regard to the first round of talks between the Russian government and the IMF.

The talks were completed in Moscow this week.

Boyko said the significance of the agreement, which is now being drafted, "even from the financial point of view goes beyond the figures provided by the credit itself." He said the Paris and London clubs were attentively following the talks. "Our progress concerning the program for extended crediting is a pre-requisite of success in talks on the foreign debt's restructuring," Boyko said.

"The very fact that such talks were held proves that the IMF has recognized Russia's success in financial stabilization because the extended credit is given, following the stabilization credit, to the countries which have already managed to stabilize their financial situation," Boyko said. He said that from the political point of view the agreement on this credit with the IMF would "raise the authority of our reforms."

According to early information, the extended credit, which is to be given for a three-year time, will be worth about $12 billion. The IMF can disburse to Russia in 1996 the $4 billion which were already fixed as foreign borrowing in the government-proposed draft federal budget.

EBRD Issues $40 Million Loan to Moscow Bank

LD0311211095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1727 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By Vitaliy Makarchev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LONDON, November 3 (ITAR-TASS) — The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed an agreement with the International Moscow Bank to open for it a 40 million dollar credit line for seven years.

An EBRD deputy vice-president told ITAR-TASS today that the EBRD had for the first time in its practice issued the massive loan to a Russian bank without guarantees from the Russian state.

This step reflects the EBRD's optimism about the Russian private economic sector to which the loan is to go, the bank official said.

The deputy board chairman of the International Moscow Bank, Yuri Kondratyuk, told ITAR-TASS that the loan is intended for financing middle and long-term projects of Russian businesses.

The 40 million dollar loan reflects trust of international banks in Russia, Kondratyuk said.

Nicaragua Debt Repayment Talks Fail

LD0611091095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Vladimir Kulikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mexico City November 6 (ITAR-TASS) — The delegations of Russia and Nicaragua at the talks in Managua on the repayment of Nicaragua's debt have failed to reach agreement. On Sunday, four days prior to the earlier fixed date for the finalisation of the negotiations, the two sides interrupted the discussion of the subject, agreeing to meet again in Moscow next year.

It has become known to the ITAR-TASS correspondent that Nicaragua, whose debt to Russia has amounted to 3,500 million U.S. dollars, seeks to secure a write-off of at least 95 per cent of the amount. The Russian Government, for its part, during the two-years-long negotiations with the Nicaraguan authorities, has agreed to write off 88 per cent of Nicaragua's debt while insisting on the repayment of the remainder.

The bulk of Nicaragua's debt to Russia is made up of overdue payments for the supply of weapons, military equipment and oil in the period of 1979 to 1990 by the Soviet Union to Nicaragua where the Sandinistas were in power at the time.

International Affairs

Kuchma To Attend Rabin's Funeral

LD0511171995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, November 5 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma will fly to Israel on Monday to attend the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin assassinated by a Jewish right-wing extremist late on Saturday.

Kuchma will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Security Council Secretary Volodymyr Horbulin.

Earlier today, the Ukrainian leader sent condolences to Israeli President Ezer Weizmann in connection with Rabin's assassination.

Kuchma noted Rabin's great contribution to the cause of peace in the Middle East which has made its name part of history.

The assassination of the prime minister is not only a tragedy for the people of Israel, but also a heavy blow to the peace process in the region, Kuchma said.

At the same time, he expressed the hope that despite all problems and difficulties this process will be brought to a successful completion.

Rabin's death is a big loss for Ukraine which he recently visited and which he considered as Israel's friend, the Ukrainian leader said. He recalled that he met Rabin at the U.N. headquarters just several days ago to discuss further steps to boost cooperation between the two countries.

"I want to assure you, Mr. President, that Ukraine will continue to move along the path of strengthening relations between our countries," Kuchma said.

Kuchma Meets Participants in Russian-Ukrainian Conference

LD0511182695 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met the participants of the sixth Ukrainian-Russian conference, entitled Ukraine and Russia — the experience of partnership and peacemaking.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] May we remind you that representatives of the Russian president and (?assistants and) advisers to the Ukrainian president, and national security experts and leaders of political and civic organizations from both countries took part in the conference. During today's 90-minute talks with the Ukrainian president, topical issues of the whole range of Ukrainian-Russian relations were discussed, on most of which a common stance was worked out.

With regard to the results of the conference, in the opinion of Russian and Ukrainian experts there are no real problems in relations between Ukraine and Russia, which cannot be resolved in the near future. The recent slowing down of progress in Ukrainian-Russian relations has been caused above all by political opportunism, and even mechanical activation of bilateral dialogue at all levels could substantially accelerate the resolution of problems, which hamper the development of Ukrainian-Russian relations on the principles of respect, equal rights, and mutual benefit. [end recording]

No Serious Problems in Relations

LD0511222095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1455 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev, 5 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Ukraine and Russia have no serious problems in their relations that could not be settled in the near future. This opinion was expressed by participants of the sixth Ukrainian-Russian conference during their meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The conference, which discussed the prospects for relations between the two countries, was attended by representatives of the presidential administrations, presidential aides and advisers, national security experts, and leaders of political and public organizations from the two countries. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the results of the meeting, Oleksandr Razumkov, first aide to the Ukrainian president, said that both sides had stated their readiness to make efforts to settle problems that exist in relations between Russia and Ukraine. According to him, this is the main result of both the meeting and the conference.

Razumkov said that the sides held no discussion of the Black Sea Fleet problems. They said that these problems can be settled in the very near future if more consultations are held between the Russian and Ukrainian leadership. Speaking about the sides' attitude to NATO, Razumkov noted "the sensitivity and importance of the issue," and said that it will be premature to form a common approach to the issue.

The sides had no disagreements on the issue of the development of economic ties. Kuchma said that Ukraine sought to deepen and expand them irrespective of political issues that are to be discussed further.

Fleet, NATO Discussed With Delegation

LD0511222695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1530 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met representatives of the Russian president, ministries, and scientific and business circles, in a delegation headed by Yuriy Baturin, the adviser to the Russian president. They took part in the Ukrainian-Russian conference "Ukraine - Russia: the experience of partnership and peacemaking."

After the meeting Volodymyr Horbulin, the secretary of the National Security Council under the president of Ukraine, said that, "this meeting was one way of raising relations onto a new and more effective level." He said that political relations with Moscow were "almost at a deadlock" although there was evidence of progress on economic issues.

According to Horbulin, during the meeting they discussed the issue of widening the debate on the problems of dividing the Black Sea Fleet, delimiting and demarcating the border between the two countries and creating joint financial and industrial groups.

According to a UNIAN correspondent, Horbulin stressed that the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet problem could not be completely transferred to the military. "It is necessary to have a clear idea of Ukrainian and Russian interests on the Black Sea," he stressed.

Horbulin also said that in the course of the Russian-Ukrainian dialogue they had discussed the problem of the North Atlantic Alliance within the context of Russia, Ukraine, and NATO.

Spokesman on Natural Gas Accord Signed in Moscow

LD0311122095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1157 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 3 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian and Russian Prime Ministers, Yevheniy Marchuk and Viktor Chernomyrdin, discussed a whole spectrum of relations between their two countries on Thursday [2 November]. Among other things they reached an accord for Ukraine to import enough natural gas from Russia to last throughout next year, Marchuk's media spokeswoman said.

Larisa Ivshina quoted Marchuk as saying "The problem of supplying Ukraine with energy for 1996 has been solved."

She told Interfax - Ukraine the two prime ministers, who met in Moscow, agreed on the prices Ukraine is to pay for the gas, how much it is to pay for transit of gas it imports from Turkmenistan through Russia and how much Moscow is to pay Ukraine for the transit of Russian gas exported to Europe.

The meeting, which lasted more than two hours, was given mainly the discussion of economic relations between the two former Soviet republics, Ivshina said.

She said Marchuk and Chernomyrdin had decided to appoint a standing Ukrainian-Russian commission to deal with specific aspects of the two countries' relations. The commission is to be headed by the two prime ministers.

The spokeswoman quoted Chernomyrdin as saying Ukraine had recently been paying for its imports from Russia more accurately.

The subjects the two leaders discussed included cooperation between the border regions of Russia and Ukraine and the two nations' military technological cooperation.

The prime ministers came to an agreement for Moscow and Kiev to resume negotiations on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. But it is not yet clear where and when the talks will be held.

Kuchma: Latin American Tour Attempt To Break Into Markets

LD0311202195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1700 GMT 3 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma speaking at the end of his tour of Brazil, Argentina and Chile in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday described it as an attempt to break into Latin American markets. He spoke of Kiev's resolve to try to push high tech products of the engineering and space industries to the markets of those three countries.

All of them signed declarations of intent on space cooperation with Ukraine.

Ukraine's possible involved in a gas pipeline project in Bolivia and Brazil is to be discussed at future talks.

Outline trade agreements were also signed.

Kuchma said Kiev was having good prospects of cooperation with Latin American states which are in the same phase of development as Ukraine.

For his part, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told Interfax that Kuchma was also invited to visit Uruguay suggesting that such a visit can be held in the near term.

Speaking in Santiago the day before, the president said the world community's attitude to Ukraine was determined by its internal stability something that may help foreign investment.

He spoke of wanting to have a strong army whose loyalty to the government was more important than its numbers.

Kuchma is opposed to a Quebec-style referendums in Ukraine. He spoke of lashing out against aggressive separatism in a recent address to the jubilee session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Well-informed sources told Interfax Kuchma had extended his congratulations on voting results during a telephone conversation with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

On Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk's decision to run in general elections, Kuchma said that as a Ukrainian citizen, Marchuk was entitled to do so, though this would raise questions as far as the constitutional treaty was concerned. He did not elaborate.

Talks With G-7 Coordinate Draft on Chernobyl Closure

LD0311122695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 3 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Two- day talks between Ukrainian government representatives and G7 experts have been held in Kiev to coordinate a draft memorandum on the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

The overall G7 expenditure on the plant's halt will exceed $2 billion, while Ukraine will have to spend some $1 billion, sources at the Press Service of the Ukrainian Environmental and Nuclear Safety Ministry told Interfax-Ukraine Friday.

The technical aspects of this aid for and financing of the plant halt will be discussed later. Ukraine proposed to include its spending in the losses it will make from the plant's shut down.

According to a staffer at the Press Service, the sides agreed on the division of aid into subsidies, grants and so on.

The subsidies will be used to finance unprofitable arrangements, including the maintenance of the sarcophagus (shelter) that covers the damaged 4th power unit of the Chernobyl plant, and the construction of storages for used nuclear fuel.

A memorandum on mutual understanding will be signed by Ukraine, G7 experts and the EU Commission during a visit to Kiev by Canadian Environmental Minister Sheila Kopf.

U.S. Space Shuttle Will Have Ukrainian Equipment Onboard

LD0511232595 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In November of this year the United States NASA will begin testing a radical instrument intended for installation in an American space shuttle. The radical instrument was manufactured for NASA by the Kiev-based Paton Electrical Welding Institute [PEWI]. The PEWI and NASA signed an agreement to that effect in May of this year. The sides have not disclosed the exact value of the contract, although it is thought to involve several hundreds of thousands of dollars. The apparatus manufactured by the Paton institute is designed for welding, cutting, and covering materials with light absorption coatings under conditions existing in space. A space shuttle with the Kiev-made apparatus on board is expected to be launched in October 1996. The Paton Institute also plans to participate in the construction of the international space station Alpha and the American space station Freedom where the institute's welding apparatus and technology are expected to be used.

National Affairs

Interior Ministry Issues Warning on Revolution Anniversary

LD0311222695 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of civic organizations, political parties, and movements have applied to hold mass measures to demonstrate their attitude to the date of 7 November [revolution anniversary]. Confirming the right of citizens' associations freely to express their views and actions within the limits of current legislation, a statement by the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry to Ukraine's people, civic organizations, political parties, and movements, says that the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry warns that any breaches of the peace, mass actions, pressure by force, resistance to law enforcement officers, or noncompliance with their legal demands will be immediately halted in accordance with current legislation. The guilty, including the organizers of mass actions, will be prosecuted.

Rukh Opposes Anniversary Celebration

LD0411190495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] and the Rukh faction in the Ukrainian parliament have issued a statement in connection with the state celebration of the anniversary of the October revolution [on 7 and 8 November]. The statement says: These days are days of Ukraine's national tragedy, because it was precisely on the eve of preparations for the Bolshevik holiday in the gruesome year of 1937 that the most outstanding representatives of the Ukrainian intelligentsia — Les Kurbas [stage director], Mykola Kulish [writer], academician Matviy Yavorskyy, neoclassical writer Mykola Zerov, writers Hryhoriy [word indistinct] and Pidmohylnyy, academics, artists, and philosophers, party members, and those who did not belong to the party — altogether more than 300 people were executed in Solovki [Solovetskiy island in the White Sea, north of Russia, known for its camp for political prisoners]. As is known, the sentences were carried out on the occasion of the festive celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution — cynicism unheard of in the history of mankind. Adolf Hitler was the only one to repeat this — he also had a habit of executing his political opponents and former associates on the occasion of state holidays. These awesome dates — 7 and 8 November — will be marked as a holiday with the assistance of the government of the Ukrainian state. Those who will again rally on those dates in the streets and squares, carrying red banners and portraits of Stalin, and glorifying the executioners of Ukraine and its people, must deeply hate their own people and history.

The People's Movement of Ukraine is demanding that the holiday on 7 and 8 November be cancelled. A feast on the blood and memory of the dead is disgraceful, immoral, and shows lack of memory. History will never forgive us for this, the statement by Rukh and the Rukh parliamentary faction says.

Leftists, National-Democrats To Demonstrate

LD0411221695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1706 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kharkov, November 4 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Two mass actions called by the political organizations of opposite political orientation are to be held on the occasion of the anniversary of the October revolution in Kharkov on November 7.

Supporters of the Socialist and Communist Parties of Ukraine and supporters of the "Working Kharkovschina (Kharkov Region)" association are to march down the Kharkov's main street and held a rally in Svoboda (Liberty) Square upon agreement with the municipal administration. The organizers of this action are expecting to win over 30,000 persons to their side.

The second meeting dedicated to "the memory of the victims of the Bolshevist terror" is to be held in Liberty Square after the Leftist meeting. It is to be held by the regional organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party and the Kharkov Cossack Regiment.

Verkhovna Rada Defies Kuchma Veto on Law on Deputies

LD0411215995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1706 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 4 (Interfax - Ukraine) — In the course of the repeated examination at its session on Saturday, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada has endorsed the Law of Amendments and Addenda to the Law of the Status of People's Deputy of Ukraine, thus defying the veto imposed on it by the decree of President Kuchma.

A total of 287 deputies have voted for this decision with one against and 11 abstentions. Three hundred and thirty seven deputies were present in the session hall.

Under the new law, every people's deputy has the right to employ up to ten consulting assistants and not three, as was proposed by the President.

In addition, under the law, the housing rent for the members of the deputy's family will be paid from the funds of Verkhovna Rada. The President proposed that these payments be made by the deputy himself or herself.

Prosecutor Ordered To Examine Hryvna Affair

LD0311191595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1715 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Supreme Council of Ukraine at its meeting behind closed doors on 3 November passed a resolution instructing the office of the prosecutor general of Ukraine to undertake an in-depth study of the documents prepared by an ad hoc deputy commission charged with the task of inspecting the activities of officials and people's deputies connected with the production of the hryvna. UNIAN learned this from unofficial sources in the Ukrainian parliament.

Under the resolution, the abovementioned people should be made liable if their actions are qualified as criminal.

According to the same source, the ad hoc deputy commission revealed violations in the activities of these officials. The meeting was attended by members of the government and Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the board of the National Bank of Ukraine.

Report on Ukraine's Shift Toward Nuclear Power

MM0311195795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by M. Kukin, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [080516] [Kukin over video of nuclear power station installations] The desire to reduce economic dependence on Russia, which means primarily fuel dependence, plus the West's continual delays in providing long-promised assistance in shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power station, have clearly prompted radical changes in the Ukrainian leadership's strategy in the sphere of nuclear power engineering.

Another power unit, number six, of the Zaporozhye nuclear power station has reached rated capacity. After scheduled repairs, another nuclear power station, the Yuzhnoukrainskaya, is also stepping up output.

However, the trend toward the rapid development of this type of station arouses only qualified optimism among the local authorities. One the one hand, it further complicates environmental problems, and on the other hand it further increases dependence on the smooth functioning of the power industry.

Yuzhnoukrainsk city, like most other nuclear power station satellite cities, was built alongside the station specifically to run it. Nine in ten of the city's inhabitants currently work at the station. The only local vocational technical college trains exclusively nuclear power station operators. On the other hand, the nuclear power station's lifespan, even after its modernization, is by no means unlimited. The Yuzhnoukrainskaya nuclear power station has at most 30 years left.

[S. Zvarygin, Yuzhnoukrainsk's deputy mayor, identified by caption] The city could turn into a "dead city" such as those which already exist. We, that is the city council, are beginning to think about this...

[Kukin] To start with an agreement has been concluded with the Kharkov International Institute of Urbanism and Regional Development. The question as to where the money for the implementation of its recommendations is to come from will be considered later. [080634]

Space Agency Chief on Opportunities To Make Profit

LD0411184695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1345 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 4 Oct — Ukraine does not take full advantage of its potential in the space industry due to the absence of a proper legal framework, Oleksandr Nehoda, the head of the National Space Agency of Ukraine, told a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers.

He said that the current low cost of producing space technology and the opportunity to export it at world prices enable Ukraine to reimburse expenses in three to four years. Straight profits can be derived from the operation of communication satellites, the export of space technology and equipment, and other space services such as the launch of cargoes from Zenit carrier rockets manufactured in Ukraine.

According to the Space Agency head, Russia plans to commission 30 Zenit rockets to launch its satellites and other space objects. Ukraine stands to earn over 800 billion Russian rubles from the project at October 1994 prices.

According to the U.S. Department of Transport, the potential market for Zenit carrier rockets ranges from five to 10 launches a year between 1997 and 2003. The Ukrainian space industry won an international competition for the launch of 36 commercial satellites in 1997 under the Global Star project, at the total contract value of $100 million.

Mounting Unrest Among Crimean Tatars Causes Concern

LD0311212895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no date as received] — An urgent conference, attended by representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission in Ukraine, took place in the Supreme Council of Crimea on 3 November.

Anushevan Danelyan, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea said negotiations were continuing yesterday and this morning with the deputies of the Kurultay faction, who had gone on hunger strike. He also said spontaneous rallies were taking place in the areas densely populated by Tatars. The participants in the rallies are calling for acts of civil disobedience.

Danelyan said the situation could get out of control and the hunger strike itself would be relegated to the background. In his opinion, it would probably be necessary to hold an extraordinary session of the Supreme Council of Crimea tomorrow [4 November].

Mykhaylo Bakharev, the chairman of a standing commission, did not support the action staged by the Kurultay faction; however, he expressed the opinion that "under these circumstances it would be unacceptable to ignore the demands [put forward by the hunger strikers]."

Deputy Vitaliy Rudakov said deputies Oleksandr Kruhlov and Tetyana Ryabchykova were ready to go on hunger strike in order to counteract the hunger strike staged by the Kurultay faction members.

An OSCE representative who attended the conference pointed out that in that situation it was necessary to proceed from the interests of Crimea and Ukraine. The main thing is to avoid the conflict that is taking shape.

In the opinion of the OSCE experts, the events in Crimea may influence Ukraine's final accession to the Council of Europe.

Crimean Parliament Speaker Yevheniy Suprunyuk said "the hunger strike staged by Crimean Tatars, which coincided with the actions by the left-wing forces in Ukraine and its accession to the Council of Europe, does not mean that Crimean Tatars do not support the left-wingers or come out against Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe."

He said "a decision should be taken in order to prevent the situation from being aggravated during the October [revolution] holiday events." Any protraction of the hunger strike will aggravate the sociopolitical situation on the entire peninsula, the speaker said.

Constitution Amended After Hunger Strike

LD0411191095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1630 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — The Crimean parliament has made changes to the Crimean Constitution, brought about by the hunger strike by representatives from the Kurultay faction in the Crimean Supreme Council. Amendments have been made to Article 107 of the Constitution, in accordance with which elections to the Crimean Supreme Council are to be held to a Crimea-wide multi-seat electoral constituency, including the town of Sevastopol, in proportion to the number of votes cast for a Crimea-wide list of candidates, nominated by electoral associations.

According to observers' assessments, if elections are held on a proportional basis, the Crimean Tatars could get from 10 to 20 percent of the votes in parliament. Today they have 15 percent in the Supreme Council, but not a single Crimean Tatar party is registered.

In accordance with the alterations to the article, the Crimean Supreme Council is to have a single chamber comprising 100 deputies, elected by Crimean citizens on the basis of overall direct equal voting rights in a secret ballot.

The deputies are discussing a Crimean Supreme Council bill on the interpretation of the concept "electoral association." Deputies from the Kurultay faction, who had declared a hunger strike, are insisting on including the concept of "national congresses" within it. This condition and the demand that all of the state languages in Crimea be granted equal status is a precondition for the Crimean Tatar deputies to halt their hunger strike.

Parliament Deputy Joins Hunger Strike

LD0411221195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1815 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, who does not formally belong to the Crimean Tatar Kurultay faction, has joined their indefinite hunger strike.

The Crimean parliament deputies adopted a resolution on interpreting the concept "electoral association" in Article 107 of the Crimean Constitution. It was decided this concept would include political parties, electoral blocs, civic organizations, national cultural societies, and ethnic communities.

The issue of the status of languages in Crimea, regarding which the Crimean Tatars have also made demands, was not examined definitively because of the lack of a quorum in the hall.

"They do not want to recognize us as a people, and already they see a direct threat even in the possibility of creating the conditions for reviving the Crimean Tatar language," Chubarov said, commenting to reporters on the situation which has emerged following the debate on the article on state languages.

UNIAN has learned that the the Crimean Tatar National Movement has called on Crimean Tatars to hold a rally near the Crimean Supreme Council premises at 1300 tomorrow. In addition, it is expected that a closed sitting of the Crimean Tatar people's majles will be held on 5 November to debate the situation that has arisen in connection with the Crimean Tatar deputies' hunger strike.

Tatars Continue Hunger Strike

LD0511234795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1456 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 5 Nov — The Crimean Tatars' rally planned for today in Simferopol, did not take place. The Majlis cancelled it to avoid aggravating the situation regarding the hunger-strike that the Crimean Tatar faction "Kurultay" declared four days ago.

The deputies belonging to the faction are demanding that the republic's new constitution should include provisions on the guaranteed representation of deported and indigenous peoples of the peninsula in the bodies of power and equal rights of the three state languages — Crimean-Tatar, Russian, and Ukrainian.

An amendment to the constitution was adopted at the extraordinary parliamentary sitting on Saturday [4 November], which provides for the holding of direct proportional representation elections to the Crimean Supreme Soviet.

In accordance with the recommendations of the OSCE commission, the meeting of the deputies' working corps has agreed today to examine amendments to the Article 6 of the constitution during the parliamentary session. The amendment stipulates that the Russian language should be used as the official language used in documents "until conditions are created for the practical equality of the state languages." The working meeting has also agreed that it was necessary to adopt a resolution on the meaning of the term "electoral association," which should include, in particular, ethnic and cultural bodies as well as citizens' conferences and congresses.

The "Kurultay" faction is quite satisfied with all these proposals, but has decided to continue the hunger strike until the parliament adopts the relevant decisions. The faction has decided that Refat Chubarov, vice-speaker of the Crimean parliament, and Lenur Arifov, chairman of the "Kurultay", should not participate in the hunger strike in order to preserve their strength for consultations with other deputies' formations.

Officials Comment on Crimean Situation

WS0611110895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0010 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By Lillia Budzhurova, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Nov. 4 — Statements by the Crimean Republican Party accusing the Ukrainian government of establishing an "ethnic hierarchy" in Crimea together with its Crimean Tatar "strategic supporters" are "biased, dishonest and unfair to Crimean Tatars," Vasyl Durdynets, Ukraine's national security and extraordinary situations deputy prime minister, said.

The deputy minister was in Crimea this week to evaluate the success in executing the presidential decree to resolve Crimean problems.

Durdynets said he was disappointed that a guarantee on Crimean Tatar legislative representation is absent from the newly drafted Crimean Constitution. He said that this issue is a part of measures approved by the national government. Durdynets said the government would work together with Ukraine's Parliament to address the Tatar representation issue.

Crimean Parliament Speaker Yevhen Suprunyuk said that "adoption of the [Crimean] Constitution solves many questions but the serious and hard work awaits us in Kiev." He said that to gain the national legislature's approval, Crimea must concede on some issues: on appointing the prime minister, on the judicial system and on subordination of Security Service and Internal Affairs Ministry.

Crimea's Deputy Parliament Speaker and chairman of its Constitutional Committee Anushavan Danelyan said he believed that "after the Crimean Constitution's adoption, the question of separatism will be solved forever at the constitutional level." He added, "Separatism can then exist only within the political parties and factions." Danelyan said he was convinced that Ukraine "will not effect changes in the adopted [Crimean] Constitution as all contradictions will have been smoothed out."

Refat Chubarov, Crimean Deputy Parliament Speaker and Tatar Medzhlis deputy chairman, said that the adopted Crimean Constitution has many contradictions that do not conform to Ukraine's legislation. He cited the clauses on citizenship and relations with Ukraine based on agreements. Chubarov said that under certain political conditions, the contradictions may cause "a splash of separatism." Chubarov also stated that "for the final elimination of Crimean separatist threats, we must think seriously on Crimea status and to solve the question through Crimea-Tatars problem." He said that Crimea should be treated as a Crimean Tatar national and territorial autonomy as a part of Ukraine.

Aleksei Menshekov, CRP deputy chairman, said that "the adoption of the Crimean Constitution does not exclude the possibility of determining another status for Crimea — independent or as a part of Russia — through referendum by Crimean inhabitants." He said that separatism could be avoided "if Ukraine will not politically interfere in Crimean internal affairs." Menshekov said he had no hope of a peaceful coexistence with the national government because he thinks "Ukraine is a 'police state' with an anti-democratic regime."

Mikhail Bystrov, leader of the Rossiya Crimean parliamentary faction, said he feels that the adopted Crimean Constitution does not solve the problem of Crimean status "while the people are striving for unification." Bystrov added, "Ukraine has to improve the living standards of the Crimean people to avoid the threat of separatism."

Economic Issues

Pynzenyk: Manufacturing 'Key' to Economy 'Rebirth'

WS0611105995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0220 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 1 — Revitalizing the manufacturing sector is the key to the rebirth of Ukraine's economy, Economic Reform Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said.

The official said that Ukrainian manufacturers lack current assets and investments. He said that current assets could only come from financial stabilization.

"Last year, for a considerable period of time the karbovanets was relatively stable and current assets began to appear. At present, we experience the same situation," Pynzenyk said.

The deputy minister said he is convinced that the increase of inflation in September of this year was unnatural and that by the end of the year, inflation will begin to decrease.

Pynzenyk said that foreign investment could be complemented by domestic investment if financial stabilization is achieved. When people trust the national currency, they will tend to save more. This, in turn, will provide an opportunity for domestic investment, he said.

Official Reports on Oblast Privatization

WS0611110995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0010 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lvov, Nov. 3 — Privatization has made advancements in four Ukrainian oblasts and the city of Kiev, Stepan Davymuka, head of the State Property Fund's Lvov office, said.

In the first nine months of this year, 1,852 objects were privatized in Lvov oblast including 731 small-scale enterprises, Davymuka said.

Dnepropetrovsk oblast privatized 821 objects, including 651 small-scale objects. Kiev transferred ownership of 803 enterprises, including 676 small-scale ones. Donetsk oblast privatized 796 enterprises with 692 small-scale objects. Odessa oblast was successful with 796 objects including 692 in small-scale privatization.

The results could have been better, but the president's December 1994 decree suspended the privatization process for half a year, according to Davymuka, who was speaking at this week's Market Reforms press club meeting.

Starting from July, privatization accelerated in Lvov oblast, he said.

The government planned to complete privatization by the end of 1995, but the term was extended until the middle of 1996.

According to Davymuka, there is every chance to complete small- scale privatization in Halychyna by the end of the current year.

Meanwhile, according to Davymuka, the method of privatization proposed by the Lvov City Council does not promise to make this quick form of privatization an effective one. The council proposed that working collectives would purchase objects slated for privatization.

The International Financial Corporation [IFC] started a Lvov pilot project of small-scale privatization program in Ukraine in February 1993, the official said. The program was designed to promote privatization through auctions.

IFC representatives expressed their disappointment with the fact that Lvov has not engaged in competitive privatization, according to Davymuka.

According to IFC experts, this method stimulates activities of the privatized object and aids in solving social problems.

IFC recognized Mariupol, Donetsk oblast as a real leader in privatization, Davymuka said.

Mariupol deputies approved the city's privatization program even before the president's December 1994 decree. The program is based on competition, allowing the city to complete privatization by the end of this year, Davymuka said.

Eighty-seven municipal property objects have been privatized in Mariupol to date. All the objects successfully continue their work meeting the city's social needs.

Mariupol officials plan to open post privatization support center for city businessmen, Davymuka said.

Small-scale privatization is near completion in Zaporizhzhya, Cherkasy, Uzhhorod, Khmelnytskyy and Lugansk where some 70 percent of municipal objects were successfully transferred from state to private ownership. According to the IFC, Lvov has reached only 40 percent in this area.

Belarus

President Lukashenka Sends Condolences to Israel

LD0511181095 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka has sent a telegram to Tel Aviv expressing sympathy to the government and people of Israel in connection with the tragic death of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The telegram says, in particular: It was with a feeling of profound shock that I learned of the tragic death of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Quite recently I had a meeting with the outstanding Israeli leader, who had Belarusian roots, and this loss that has hit the people of Israel is felt by me very sharply. In the name of the entire Belarusian people, and for myself personally, I convey profound condolences to the government and people of Israel, to Mrs. Lea Rabin, to the kith and kin of Yitzhaq Rabin.

A government delegation from our republic will attend the funeral in Jerusalem. It is headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Uladzimir Syanko. It flew to Israel today.

Lukashenka Addresses Greetings on Eve of October Revolution

LD0411153395 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the October Revolution, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has addressed greetings to the people of the republic. In particular, the message says that in the post-October period, our country has acquired statehood and laid firm economic foundations for industrial and agricultural production. It has created a world-level of science and culture. Thanks to the fraternal help of the peoples of the former Soviet Union, occupied but undefeated Belarus withstood the frightful years of the Great Patriotic War. In a short time it has healed its wounds, and in the post-war period has transformed itself into a highly developed, contemporary European state.

There may be various political opinions, there may be various attitudes toward the October Revolution. However, we must not fail to respect the history of our people, and the heroic deeds of previous generations to establish a socially oriented society, at the center of which is the human being, his all-round moral, intellectual, and material development.

In his greetings, Alyaksandr Lukashenka wishes health, personal and family prosperity, and success to veterans and all citizens in fruitful work for the good of our dear Republic of Belarus.

Lukashenka Views Possibility of Presidential Rule

WS0311155795 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 1 Nov 95

[Video report by V. Kharkow and Yu. Sakhadze on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's 1 November trip to Mahilyow to inaugurate a new bridge — correspondents identified by caption; Lukashenka speaks in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The event in Mahilyow [inauguration of a bridge] gave the president a pretext for drawing a parallel on a broader, even geopolitical scale. Being located in the center of Europe, the Republic of Belarus itself is sort of performing the function of a bridge.

[Begin Lukashenka recording] Our course toward comprehensive integration with countries of the East and the West is unalterable. This is what I stated from the UN rostrum during my recent visit to New York. [end recording]

The solemn occasion did not prevented the president from voicing rather critical remarks on the general political situation in the country.

[Begin Lukashenka recording] I certainly see what is going on around us; I realize what is going around us. I do not sit idly by; I do not sit in the corner waiting for some chance or better times. I do as much as it is possible to do today. Please, do not think that the conflict existing today between the president and all the political forces opposing him is a sort of personal conflict. No, my dear ones! At your request, the president has been able to got into the most serious spheres of life and activity of our society in only one year of power. As soon as he burst into the financial sphere, the Republic rose up in alarm. Both the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court rose in opposition. When it become impossible to work in the Supreme Soviet, when they could not gather deputies — I am grateful to those deputies who did not come to take part in that farce [balagan], pardon my word, and supported the president in this way — they moved on to the Constitutional Court. Today they practically block all edicts adopted by the president. They say that the edicts do not conform with laws. But what laws have they created during five years? Criminal laws! [end recording]

[passage omitted] A news conference was held in Mahilyow today with the participation of the president. The news conference touched upon a wide range of regional, political, and economic nature. In particular, here is what Alyaksandr Lukashenka said about presidential rule and the circumstances when it may be implemented fully.

[Begin Lukashenka recording] If there emerges — I answer specifically your question — a threat to the sovereignty and the statehood of the Republic of Belarus, if they [not specified] are not allowed to work in the future, too, and enterprises are not going to operate like they should, if I see that under the activities of those forces directing today their strike toward the president, a minister is afraid to adopt a resolution and the vertical power structure shakes from a light breeze — these factors will testify to the destruction of the state. These will be the symptoms of a breach of stability in our society, of a confrontation, or even — God forbid! — of a civil war. Of course, I will be forced to take preventive measures, including a possible introduction of presidential rule. [end recording]

Lukashenka Addresses Parliament on Economy

LD0411160895 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, a meeting of the deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet began today in the government building in Minsk. Here are our correspondents Lyudmila Makarava and Valyantsina Verashchagina with details:

[Unidentified correspondent] The meeting was opened and chaired by Alyaksandr Abramovich, chairman of the Belarus Central Election Commission. In his opening address he noted that the meeting is aimed at discussing preparations for the first sitting of the 13th Supreme Soviet, [words indistinct] for election of the new parliament on 29 November. Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka made an address to the meeting. Here is a transmission [words indistinct]

[Begin Lukashenka recording in Russian] We are already meeting for the second time. I hope that our work today will be fruitful, especially as the joint meeting of the deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet is being attended by leaders of the Cabinet of Ministers, the president's administration, court bodies, and other top state officials. Altogether we must make decisions on many issues. The main task for us should be the solving of the difficult political situation which has developed in our republic over the past several months.

As president of the Republic of Belarus, I have developed sufficiently good working relations with the majority of deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet, as well as with many deputies of the previous Supreme Soviet. I can see your potential and I like your aspiration to solve the problems and the mistakes of the previous Supreme Soviet.

However, I often hear some deputies both from the previous and the new Supreme Soviet say that the president [words indistinct] guarantees of law-governed relations, he carries out his policy without regard for the laws. In my opinion, this is not quite true. We are facing the most difficult socio-political situation. For almost six months the republic has not had a capable legislative power — in many respects the president is not the only one to blame for this, to put it mildly — and as a result we have been unable to solve a whole complex of most important problems ranging from the budget and personnel appointments to legislative support [words indistinct] in the republic. Given these circumstances, the president and the Cabinet of Ministers have been forced to rule the state directly by making decisions, sometimes using regulation levers of the legislative sphere. How could it be otherwise? After all, somebody had to take state decisions and take upon themselves the whole weight of responsibility avoiding (?political mongering).

Reproaches against the president, including unfair ones, are often heard today regarding the economic situation. However, if one looks without speculation and hysteria at the results of the year that has passed, one can draw the main conclusion that in most difficult conditions we have managed to prevent the disintegration of the single economic complex and to preserve control over the economy. We are entering winter with reliable reserves of food and fuel.

For the sake of comparison, I would like to say that after the first month of my presidency we entered winter with zero reserves; we had nothing in our storehouses because everything had been used up without any wisdom and for the sake of popularity and sometimes [words indistinct] in order to stabilize the situation. Today, in contrast, we have reserves equal to those we had during the Soviet period, i.e. we used to have such reserves at the beginning of winter during those Soviet times. These are no longer supplied by Moscow, and we do not receive these supplies free of charge. The young sovereign and independent state has to pay for everything. This is why I say that sovereignty and independence are very expensive things.

The necessary conditions for the social aspects of life have been preserved and are functioning in the republic, if not at a sufficiently high level at least at an altogether acceptable level. I would like to thank our people for that — our teachers, medical personnel, utilities transport workers, agricultural, industrial, and cultural workers. Sometimes working for a symbolic wage, they perform their duties at their places of work out of their sense of duty and patriotism. The true civic character shows in that. Thank you again for your work and patience.

However it is impossible to evaluate the situation in Belarus objectively without comparison with other republics in the CIS.

Take a look around. A television crew recently returned from our neighbors. [Word indistinct] in what used to be the best collective farms in the border regions, a day's work in the fields earns them the equivalent of exactly five boxes of matches; the lights are switched off at 1700 in state buildings; 1 kg of sausage costs a month's pension. This poverty has taken hold in all the republics of the former Soviet Union, and we simply cannot reconcile ourselves to this situation without building up integration. I should tell you today that as a result of my consultations in New York with nearly all the heads of state in the Commonwealth, we concluded that only through integration can we avoid total collapse.

Esteemed deputies! The economic situation is to a large extent determined by the situation in industry. As you already know, industrial output has shrunk by 11 percent over the past nine months. This reduction is due most of all to lower output of engineering products, food, and building materials. At the same time, the chemical and petrochemical industry and fuel industry recorded higher output, at 119 and 111 percent respectively. About 10 million tonnes of oil have reached the refineries this year. From this year's oil resources, the republic has been able to supply itself with the main types of petroleum product at a level 50 percent higher than in 1994. And everyone here is well aware of that. We have always asked Russia for 10 million tonnes of oil a year, and we did the same this year. But to date this year, we have already received 10 million tonnes.

I should tell you that thanks to our policy of maintaining proper mutual relations with the Russian state, we received our oil at much less than world prices. In January-September, chemicals and petrochemicals output was up 11 percent on the same period of last year, including a 12.8 percent increase at enterprises of the Belneftekhimprom concern.

Mineral fertilizer output has risen to 2.5 million tonnes, output of synthetic tars and oils to 359,200 tonnes, and of paints and lacquers to 36,500 tonnes. I have just signed into force an export quota of 700,000 tonnes for our potassium fertilizers. That means that this year we are exporting one and a half times more of our potassium fertilizer than we did last year, and, I think, everyone here in this hall knows that well.

The work being done in the republic to stabilize agriculture and its related industries has led to a relatively slower rate of decline in the output of the main types of agricultural produce. Sowing and harvesting has in the main been carried out in good time this year, although this was not easily done.

I know that the chairmen of regional councils are here in this hall, and also farm workers' representatives. I have just decided that, whether the former chairman of the Council of Ministers is responsible or not, collective and state farms will not be asked to repay the 1,500 billion [Belarusian] rubles in credits that were issued a year and a half ago.

Despite all the difficulties and problems we are currently experiencing, capital construction continues. In the first nine months of this year, two new stations for the Minsk subway have been handed over. A mayonnaise production facility has been started up at the Gorodok food manufacturing industrial estate in Vitebsk Region. A meat line has been started up at the Volkovysk meat factory. The Belarusstal production association in the town of Seligorsk has started making potassium chloride granules. A generating set at the Gomel state district power station No. 2, 21 oil wells, gas trunk pipelines and electricity power transmission lines, and hard-surfaced highways have all entered service.

I recently attended the opening of a bridge at Mogilev, across the Dnepr. Completing this unique project was extraordinarily difficult. It used to look like the most hopeless of delayed projects, after taking about 15 years to build. Now that it has been finished, the town is able to tackle a whole range of acute environmental and transport issues. The people in Mogilev and the surrounding area, and in our whole republic, are well aware that this has been a long-term dream for Mogilev.

In the first nine months, enterprises and organizations under all forms of ownership handed over 11,500 apartments with a total floorspace of 638,000 square meters. Although this is, of course, very little, it does show that our Belarusian construction industry is nonetheless alive and working.

For your information, I can report to the new composition of the Supreme Soviet and the representatives of the old Supreme Soviet present, that a draft presidential decree has been prepared, and I can let you know about this in advance. Under this decree, we should complete all outstanding housing construction for this year and next year, by 1 November next year. We should complete it throughout the republic, and we intend this to be the first stage of our work. The second stage, if we can carry it out concurrently without undermining Belarus' financial stability — and if we can't do it concurrently then it will be consecutive — is to complete all construction projects that have been begun until now. From the foundations up. [end recording]

Hryb Addresses Supreme Soviet Deputies

LD0311234495 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1730 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Speech by Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb at a meeting of deputies in Minsk on 3 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] As before, despite common sense, we hear an assertion that the deputies of the 12th Supreme Soviet are very interested in prolonging their term in parliament by a month or two. I will say honestly for myself and my colleagues: no and no again. We could give up our authority today, but to a competent 13th Supreme Soviet, which, unfortunately, we have not got yet. The number of members of the 13th Supreme Soviet — 119 people — will not be able to make decisions that would have legislative force. This could create conditions for various regulations: straight, bent — whatever you want. The issue of taxation, the budget, and ownership — everything remains in the hands of one branch of power — the executive branch. One does not need explanations where this could lead; we have already witnessed it.

It comes out that our country will not have a plenipotentiary and full legislative power in the best case until February 1996 or, if the elections do not take place, I personally do not exclude the possibility that altogether there will only remain the executive power subordinated to (?itself) and court power. The Constitution does not allow that the state should be left even for a day without a supreme legislative body.

Everywhere in the country and outside its borders we can hear now that the confrontation between the legislative and executive powers deepens in the Republic of Belarus. Various predictions are made as to where that could lead. Having considered those issues I came to the conclusion that there is no confrontation and there has been none before. There are from time to time violations of the Constitution and the laws of Belarus on the one hand, but on the other hand there is a firm position of the Supreme Soviet directed at the protection of the Constitution and the laws. I think that everyone will agree that over the past six months the Supreme Soviet has not adopted a single normative act which would contribute to the confrontation of the powers and destabilization of the economic and political situation in the country. It would be incomprehensible if the Supreme Soviet did not protect the Constitution and the laws that it has adopted. We do that in a civilized manner as it is stipulated in the laws.

[Words indistinct] we must seek advice from one another here today on the subject of future actions of the legislative power in overcoming the economic crisis. I do not mean any influence with the work of the bodies of the executive power if it does not contradict the Constitution and the laws of the country. I will just touch upon that aspect of the problem which fully concerns the Supreme Soviet. No doubt, it consists of people of different convictions, with different ideas about socio-economic [words indistinct]. Each faction and each deputies' group will support its position and its economic concept. On the one hand it is good — the Supreme Soviet will have alternatives and choices of decisions. On the other hand, these alternatives could be directly opposite, and most likely it will be the case, and, naturally, that will make the process of decision-making more difficult. Therefore the first and foremost task of the Supreme Soviet in the field of the economic policy is the adoption of a fundamental document which would define the strategy and the main path of socio-political development of our state. That will become a cornerstone of further perfection of the economic legislation of Belarus. The document must provide answers for the questions: what society will we be building after all and what are we building now? We must clearly decide for ourselves and inform the population of Belarus and the whole world as to which path of economic development Belarus will follow. A name alone is not sufficient; for example, market economic, socially orientated market economy, market socialism, or anything else. These are only a form. The main thing is the essence of that path. This is a task both for the legislative and executive powers. In my opinion such a document can be based on the program of socio-political development of Belarus by the year 2000 which is being developed today by the Cabinet of Ministers of Belarus. Only after the Supreme Soviet adopts this document and defines the strategy and principles of the economic policy can one turn to tactics and first of all to (?taxes and the budget policy). Economic reforms thus can become consistent and resolute.

There is another necessary condition for the work of the Supreme Soviet in the field of economy to be successful. Practice has shown that professionals should be involved in the work on economic legislation. However, it seems to me that there are not that many real professionals in the republic. They work in research institutes, higher educational establishments, state administration bodies, business circles, state enterprises and so on. It is necessary to use their intellect in the preparation of draft laws. Most likely it makes sense to have at the Supreme Soviet an expert council which would analyze the most important economic decisions taken by the Supreme Soviet. That would make it possible to evaluate at a high professional level all the pros and contras of the proposed decision. Judging by the work of the economic council created under the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, there is already certain experience of that kind and there are also candidates.

Esteemed colleagues, I am convinced that if we unite our efforts — the president, the Supreme Soviet, the executive power as a whole and deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet — we will be able to overcome both [word indistinct] parliamentary and political crises and break out of the clutches of the economic crisis. I want to invite you once more to take an active part in the lawmaking process, to prepare material for the first session of the 13th Supreme Soviet, to work for a while in the standing commissions, to take for yourselves certain experience if you find it necessary. Some of you, as I know, are working in the building of the Supreme Soviet already today. The ones who applied have been given premises and access to all the materials and commissions and they can confirm that today. It would be very useful to study the work of the secretariat of the Supreme Soviet. It is staffed by high professionals. They are carrying out a huge organizational work, preparing legislative work and, besides, they are preparing for the deputies a lot of reference material.

Unfortunately I cannot say anything positive about our financial, material and technical provision. A lot from what used to be called [word indistinct] and what had been acquired has been lost by us because of the change of premises and as a result of the forcible expropriation of the property of the Supreme Soviet by the president's administration of the affairs. The case is now at the Constitutional Court but has not been considered yet. What did happen in reality? The material, technical, social and housing support for the work of the Supreme Soviet is now effectively non-existent. The financing of the Supreme Soviet has been effectively stopped. The financing of the construction of housing for the deputies has been effectively stopped too. Nine floors of that building have already been constructed and it has to be completed. Despite everything, we have received a proposal that further progress of the construction is undertaken by the administration of affairs. The question is why, who has allowed that, why do you take what is not yours? The flats there are intended for the deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet, not for us, the deputies of the 12th Supreme Soviet. All this threatens the disruption of the preparation for the first session of the 13th Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus and further effective work of our parliament.

Esteemed assembly, of course I could not touch on everything. You have a lot of plans and proposals. However I would like to note that already today we are prepared to work and develop a whole number of drafts and to employ for that certain specialists who are highly educated and qualified for that task. However, we cannot do that because of the absence of funds. This will have to be done considerably later and we will not have gained anything by that apart from what we have lost.

It would be nice if future work proves that we hold the same opinions. Even if it does not, we still have to respect different opinions of other people. I have held this conviction and will continue to do so. Every person and deputy are entitled to their opinions, no matter whether they are liked or not. I want to believe that we will live in a sovereign law-governed state. I also want to believe that all of us will have sufficient wisdom conscientiously and without excessive talk and with guidance from the constitution of the Republic of Belarus to do everything in our power to achieve changes for the better and to improve the life of our young state and to do everything we, the deputies of the 13th Supreme Soviet can.

Moldova

Romania's Melescanu Characterizes Ties as 'Good'

AU0311165595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1930 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, November 2 [INFOTAG] — The Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Teodor Melescanu, has called the Moldovan-Romanian relations as "good and developing for the benefit of a deeper economic integration and consolidation of a unified cultural and spiritual domain."

He told INFOTAG, the authorities of the two neighbour countries have been holding regular meetings and consultations which promote better cooperation in all fields.

Speaking about the draft of the basic Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourly Relations, Mr. Melescanu reminded about the recent round of talks in Chisinau at which the experts clarified each sides' concepts and approaches to drafting the principal document.

"Alongside with very many common attitudes, the experts found out certain new differences. This indicates that the negotiations need to be continued in order to find approaches which would allow to sign the treaty to serve the interests of both countries," the minister said.

He could not provide a definite answer concerning the date of the treaty signing, having only remarked, that would depend on the experts' progress.

"On the one hand, this is a typical treaty between two states respecting each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. On the other, this is going to be a very specific document involving two countries which have inherited one history, and, generally, have very much in common. Everything will depend on how successfully the sides will manage to combine the typical relationship patterns with such a specifics. To a certain extent, the treaty drafting may be regarded as a touchstone. I am confident, the experts will coop with the tasks set for them," the minister said.

Teodor Melescanu has highly praised the performance of the Moldovan representatives who presided in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation-BSEC during the past six months. Romania, which has taken over the Chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the next half-year, will spare no effort to continue the process of consolidating the regional organization.

Weekly Describes State as 'Russian Creature'

AU0311194995 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 02/11/1995 [BASA-press] — Chief editor of the weekly LITERATURA SI ARTA (LITERATURE AND ART) Nicolae Dabija, vice chairman of the Party of Democratic Forces, declares in today's issue of the weekly that "riding on our independence we have reached the precise spot we were waited for so long — the dead end.... It looks like we are the only in the world to make strange experiments: we wish to create a country (another one) from a splinter of the country."

He says that the Moldovan Constitution "in fact only ratifies the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, and looks like an annex to the pact. It federalizes Bessarabia. It makes collective farms eternal. It tells lies (like Moldovan language, Moldovan people, Moldovan nation). It states that we are not a nation, but a population. Private property is not protected. Teaching of religion in schools is prohibited," Dabija says.

"During the last two years Moldova showed to the whole world that it is the only place on the globe, where — after an election — any party may come to power with its anthem, its flag, its own name for the language..." Specifying that "we borrow thousands of dollars to pay for Russian [natural] gas (the most expensive in the world)" and that "presently Moldova has debts of over one billion dollars," Dabija concludes that "Moldova, as a state with an 'independent' appearance, seems to be a Russian 'creature,' with its sovereignty declared and never achieved which will estrange us from our origins."

Politicians View Snegur's Legislative Initiatives

AU0311194795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 02/11/1995 [BASA-press]

Opinions on Presidency-Parliament Relations

President Snegur's initiatives to alter Moldovan legislative framework are controversially interpreted by representatives of power branches and political forces.

"Though the parliament re-voted most bills unpromulgated by the president, there is no direct confrontation between the Parliament and the president," Petru Dascal, presidential adviser, stated to BASA-press. According to him, that Snegur opposed some bills shows that "the head of state insists upon adjusting Moldovan legislative framework to European legislation by the Council of Europe recommendations." Dascal said "it is early to speak about president's reaction to Parliament's not considering most of his objections, but a certain reaction is sure to follow."

Ion Ungureanu of the Moldovan Party of Revival and Conciliation told BASA-press that "if things go this way, a conflict of principle between the president and the Parliament is inevitable. It is abnormal that the amendments to the bills on state security and security organs, made by the president as a commander-in-chief of armed forces, were not taken into consideration," Ungureanu stated.

Dumitru Diacov, Moldovan deputy speaker, said to BASA-press that "until recently, President Snegur promulgated all the bills passed by Parliament, but since then, due to certain political events, the cooperation between the president and the Parliament has been hampered." According to Diacov, "one may suppose that Snegur's reluctance to promulgate bills is influenced by the change of viewpoints which occurred after the emergence of the Moldovan Party of Revival and Conciliation in the political arena." He also said that "the tendency not to promulgate laws might be an attempt to prove that the presidency is more reformist than the Parliament."

Opinions on President Snegur's Legislative Initiative on Land Sale

The ban on land sale effective until 2001, according to the Land Code, has no economic reason and contradicts the constitutional and general human rights to property, Academician Ilie Untila stated to the governmental newspaper MOLDOVA SUVERANA (SOVEREIGN MOLDOVA). The newspaper anticipates parliamentary debates on President Snegur's initiative to change the Land Code, initiating publication of materials on transformation of land into commodity.

In Untila's opinion, Snegur's initiative "must be urgently legalized, if we really intend to become an European state with modern agriculture." Untila states that at their recent national meeting, the peasants who were distributed land voted unanimously against the land sale ban.

"The Food and Agriculture Ministry supported the presidential initiative except for one objection," Ion Palii, vice minister of food and agriculture, told the same newspaper. Palii said "the ministry has always favoured land sale and exclusion of restrictions on land distribution on the condition that land is sold to those who tilled, till and can till."

Kazakhstan

Toqayev: Train Detained in Russia Will Not Affect Relations

LD0211185095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (Interfax) — The detention of a train with Kazakh weaponry sold to North Korea on October 20 by the Russian customs in the Far East is not a problem in relations between Russia and Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev announced at a Thursday news conference in Moscow.

He said appropriate agencies of the two countries are now deciding what should be done to the train.

The minister said the detained train carries outdated air defense installations made in the 40s and uncompetitive in the world market. "Their sale to North Korea does not contradict international law," Toqayev said.

Two Hundred More Kazakh Expatriates Return From Iran

LD0411231395 Tehran IRNA in English 2233 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, Nov. 4, IRNA — Some 200 Kazakhs returned home to an independent Kazakhstan after six decades of exile in Iran, the Kazakh daily PRAVDA wrote on Saturday.

The daily said Kazakhs had migrated to Iran during the repressive rule of communist dictator Joseph Stalin's suppression.

Earlier another group of Kazakhs had left Iran for home and settled in Shymkent and Jambul area.

Some 5,000 Kazakhs reside in the northwestern Iranian region of Turkman Sahra at present. They had sought refuge Iran during the Stalin era in order to safeguard the Islamic faith and culture.

Kazakhstan, which attained independence following the Soviet collapse in 1991, is trying to increase ethnic Kazakhs by offering incentives to those residing abroad. At present Kazakhs constitute over 40 percent of Kazakhstan's population.

The latest batch Kazakh which left Iran numbered 42 families. They arrived at Kazakh port of Aktau on the Caspian aboard the Iranian ship 'Mirza Kuchak-Khan'.

Kyrgyzstan

Visiting German Foreign Minister Backs Early Elections

LD0511203795 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1330 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Klaus Kinkel, federal vice chancellor and federal minister of foreign affairs of Germany, who has arrived on a visit to Kyrgyzstan, has approved of the decision of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev to hold early elections, and has convinced his government to continue rendering support to this people of Central Asia.

At a meeting with President Akayev, Dr. Kinkel said that the transition to the free system of democracy and the new law-based system is demanding very great efforts from your citizens. We know from our own experience that democracy can lay its roots deep only if the citizens are sure that the political leadership will observe the constitution and hold democratic elections regularly, Kinkel said. The decision you have made will contribute to the development of this fundamental trust, Dr. Kinkel said.

Germany is helping your country as far as possible to use its resources with the aim of economic revival; we will also render you support in future, Kinkel said.

Today the German foreign minister held a meeting with the representatives of the German minority in Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Kinkel said that the given ethnic group has linked the two states for more the a century, but that more than two-thirds of the Germans have left Kyrgyzstan, which is a great loss to the country, added Dr. Kinkel. The governments of the two countries must discuss issues relating to the Germans living in this Central Asian country, and ensure their equality and security.

Vice Chancellor Kinkel had a meeting with Prime Minister Apas Dzhumagulov. A news conference for journalists was held on the results of the visit.

Tajikistan

President Rakhmanov Awarded Title of Army General

LD0411184995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 4 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov has been awarded the title of army general. A Supreme Assembly session has adopted this decision by a majority of votes today.

According to the Constitution, the 43-year-old head of state is commander in chief of the republic's Armed Forces.

Emomali Rakhmanov is the only person in Tajikistan who has such a high military title.

Security Measures Increased After Dushanbe Bomb Blast

LD0511103595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 5 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Spokesmen for Tajikistan's forces ministries have yet to give a clear-cut assessment of the explosion that rocked a recreational park in central Dushanbe this morning. They are not, however, ruling out an act of terrorism by opponents of stabilization in the republic.

As reported earlier, the explosion killed one woman and seriously wounded another. According to information received by ITAR-TASS from the republic's Interior Ministry, a home-made device wrapped in a plastic bag had been placed on a park bench. It blew up when a council cleaner tidying up the path carelessly started unwrapping it.

The blast took place the day before celebrations planned by parliament for 6 November to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of Tajikistan's constitution. Also, a communist rally was planned for 7 November in the park, which has a monument to Lenin. Because of this, the Interior Ministry has not ruled out the possibility that this was an act of political terrorism. The park is full of locals and visitors on festival days and, according to a ministry spokesman, someone stood to gain from ruining the atmosphere, wrecking the celebrations, and intimidating people with the possibility it could happen again.

The republic's law-enforcement authorities are hunting for the perpetrators, ITAR-TASS has learned. Increased security measures have also been taken to protect the public and public places. Police checkpoints have been set up and patrols mounted in the busiest parts of the city.

Rakhmanov's Adviser Accuses Deputy of Murder

LD0311135495 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Speech by Amirqul Azimov, state adviser to President Emomali Rakhmanov to the Supreme Council; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear deputies, I want to take this opportunity to present a proposal, with your permission. As you know, the administrative bodies in Khatlon Region are fighting crime and criminals. What I have to say relates to a deputy of the Supreme Assembly from the 145-Uyali constituency in Gazimalik District, Khatlon Region, Khoja Karimov. According to preliminary investigations, Khoja Karimov has committed serious crimes and must be arrested. The investigative bodies have all the information. I will list two crimes here.

First of all, people's deputy of the republic, Tagoykhon Shukurov, was taken hostage and killed by a group led by Khoja Karimov on 23 November 1993 along with peoples deputy of the republic, Saidsho Shoyev, and his brother. There have also been other murders, which I will not go in to. I ask your permission to arrest Khoja Karimov.

Supreme Assembly Hears of Increase in Crime

LD0311195395 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Uzbek 1300 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants at the second session of the Supreme Assembly, along with other issues, are emphasizing the need to fight crime firmly. Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, who spoke at the session, therefore proposed that the session should hear a report by the prosecutor general of the country on the rational use of internal and foreign credits.

This is certainly no accident, as many organizations, businessmen, and other people are using state credits for their own ends, and are not giving any profits to the state. In this respect they are committing crimes. In general, crimes are increasing in the republic.

If we pay attention to the facts, in January-September this year 11,165 crimes occurred in the country. This is 1.1 percent more than in the same period last year. The number of unsolved crimes is lower than last year, but it is impossible to say that the work carried out is satisfactory: In the first nine months of last year, 63.2 percent of crimes were not solved; in the same period this year, 51.2 percent of crimes have not yet been solved. That is to say, more than half of the crimes committed have not been dealt with.

About half of all crimes committed — i.e. 45.1 percent of them — are accounted for by theft of state, public, and private property. Theft of citizens' property accounts for 69 percent of all thefts. There have been 1,462 cases involving house-breaking [so far this year].

Crimes involving deliberate bodily harm were registered on 181 occasions: This is more than last year. Such crimes increased by a factor of 2.6 in the Frunze district of Dushanbe, by a factor of 1.7 in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, and increased by 15.1

percent in Leninabad region. There were 321 cases of intentional murder registered. According to the State Statistics Agency, crimes committed by minors or involving their participation also increased.

TV To Resume Broadcasting Iranian Programs 'Soon'

LD0511163295 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, Nov. 5, IRNA — The Tajik minister of culture and news, Bobokhon Mahamadov said the broadcast of Iranian made programs on Tajik TV had been halted temporarily and that Tajik TV would soon resume airing those programs.

The Tajik minister, meeting with Iranian ambassador to Dushanbe, 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed-Shabestari, here on Saturday said the main reason for the Tajik TV discontinue to broadcast Iranian programs was lots of programs it had to air in relation to the session of Tajikistan's Supreme Assembly.

Although inhabitants of certain Tajik regions found it very difficult to understand the language used in Iranian made TV programs the Tajik people are still interested in watching them, he added.

According to Mahamadov, Iranian TV programs are very popular in Tajikistan.

The Tajik minister expressing his interest in expansion of bilateral ties in various domains especially in cultural field.

The minister also called for expansion of bilateral cooperation in art, culture and radio and T.V. related activities.

The news of the Tajik TV stopping boradcast of Iranian programs was first revealed by the Iranian media about ten days ago.

Turkmenistan

Ashgabat Declines CIS Military, Media Integration

LD0511180395 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1215 GMT 4 Nov 95

["Turkmenistan-CIS: Equal Rights and Reciprocal Benefits on the Basis of Coordination" — TURKMEN PRESS headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Making cooperation effective within the CIS framework was discussed at a meeting of the heads of government of the Commonwealth [CIS] countries held in Moscow on 3-4 November, in which a delegation from Turkmenistan also took part.

The Moscow summit once again demonstrated Turkmenistan's fidelity to its own position in terms of partnership within the CIS framework. In pursuit of intensifying centralization, attempts are being made to establish supra-national institutions, including those to manage economic integration. Turkmenistan does not see any possibility at this stage of its adhering to such accords or agreements. The fact that Turkmenistan is now a nonaligned state, which has obtained international support for its neutral status, adds a particular nuance to this position. This explains why the Turkmen delegation did not take part in the discussion and adoption of resolutions on a bloc of military issues.

A similar position was voiced on the formation of a single CIS information space. Turkmenistan expressed its readiness to take part in full-scale cooperation in the fields of information, culture, and the whole humanitarian sphere on a bilateral and multilateral level, without attempts at a unified model for mass media systems.

At the same time, the Turkmen side expressed its readiness to strengthen partnership in fields involving the establishment of equal and mutually beneficial economic cooperation. Specifically, an intergovernmental agreement on gas transit was signed in Moscow, which Turkmenistan also adhered to.

Niyazov, Slovakia's Meciar Discuss Cooperation

LD0311215495 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Turkmen 1200 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] of Turkmenistan and Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar have discussed Turkmen-Slovak bilateral cooperation in detail. [passage omitted]

In the course of the meeting, various estimates of mutual accounts between the two countries were determined. In the words of the Slovak prime minister, the mechanism of using Ukraine's territory for the transportation of Turkmen gas was studied. The sides agreed that it is necessary to hold bilateral negotiations for working out the mechanisms of the bilateral cooperation. In the words of the head of the Slovak Government, there are no European countries which are not buying Russian gas. He is also ready to start negotiations on determining the terms of Slovakia's purchase of Turkmen gas by using the pipelines passing through Slovak territory.

Armenia

President Ter-Petrosyan Sends Condolences to Israel

LD0511173995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 5 Nov — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan sent a telegram to the leadership of Israel today in which he expressed his profound condolences to the people and government of this country in connection with the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, ITAR-TASS has learned from a high-ranking member of staff in the presidential administration.

President Receives French Minister for European Affairs

NC0311211095 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received Michel Barnier, French minister for European Affairs. Matters relating to bilateral relations and development of Armenia's ties with the EU were discussed. Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan; Hovhannes Igityan, chairman of the National Assembly International Relations Commission; Armenian Ambassador to France Vigen Chitechyan; and French Ambassador to Armenia France d'Arteng also took part in the meeting.

French Envoy on Nuclear Plant 'Concern'

LD0411220595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 4 Nov — Armenia will receive the status of special invitee to the Council of Europe in the coming months and France will support her in this, said Michel Barnier, a French minister-delegate for European Affairs. His one-and-a-half day visit to Armenia ended today with the signing of agreements on mutual protection; encouragement in investment; and cultural, scientific and technological cooperation. He announced his decision to give an extra 1 million French francs to continue building a French school in Gyumri (former Leninakan) in place of the one destroyed by the earthquake in 1988. France will also help in building a center for prevention of children's illnesses in Vanadzor (former Kirovakan).

Michel Barnier remarked on France's concern "over the conditions of nuclear safety" from the recommissioning of the Armenian nuclear power station. He informed the Armenian leadership of the French Government's readiness to help in safeguarding nuclear safety.

France will continue to support the peace process of the Karabakh conflict, said the minister-delegate. We advocate respect for territorial integrity of the states of the region and the safety of the Armenian population in Nagorno Karabakh, he said. A settlement of the conflict is possible by way of an international peacekeeping operation and under international guarantees of peace, he thinks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives OSCE Officials

NC0311215795 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of military-technical problems relating to peacekeeping operations in the Karabakh conflict zone were discussed today in a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan and a delegation headed by General Heikki (?Belen), head of the OSCE's high-level planning group. High-ranking Swiss officers were included in the delegation.

Mr. Oskanyan briefed them on the current stage of the peace process and on Armenia's position at the negotiations.

Views were exchanged on the course of the talks and on the possibility of more productive coordination in the planning of peacekeeping operations.

The Swiss officers are interested in the issue because Switzerland will take over the presidency of the OSCE in 1996.

Ambassador Aleksandr (?Vakini), aide-de-camp of the OSCE chairman's personal representative on the Karabakh problem, was present at the meeting.

Vardan Oskanyan also received today Ambassador Frank Lambagh, Germany's representative in the OSCE Minsk Group. Views were exchanged on the results of the latest round of talks for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict. The possible paths of furthering the peace process were examined, as well as the prospects of bringing together the sides' views on basic issues. German Charge d'Affaires in Armenia Norbert Heinze also took part in the talks.

President Favors Wider International Role in Karabakh

LD0311222895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, Nov 3 (Interfax) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said he was in favor of "activating the international community's efforts for the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict."

"Armenia always has favored and will continue to favor resolution of the Karabakh issue through talks with direct participation of the conflicting parties," Ter-Petrosyan said at a meeting with German representative of the OSCE Minsk Group Frank Lambagh in Yerevan today.

The Armenian president met with French Minister for Affairs of European Countries Michel Barnier on the same day.

Ter-Petrosyan and Barnier discussed the prospects for developing relations between Armenia and France and broadening relations between Armenia and the European Union, the Armenian president's staff told Interfax.

A new building of the French Embassy was opened after the meeting.

U.S. Official on 'Taking Concrete Steps' on Karabakh

NC0311200895 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1646 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 2/11/95 NOYAN TAPAN — On November 2 a delegation of the U.S. Department of State and the Pentagon made up of Special Senior Advisor to the U.S. State Secretary and Coordinator for NIS [Newly Independent States] James Collins, Assistant to U.S. Defense Minister Ashton Carter and Coordinator of the U.S. Assistance to Newly Independent States Richard Morningstar arrived in Yerevan from Georgia. The main objective of the visit is strengthening of Armenian-US relations, discussion of political, economic, military and other issues. Problems, concerning peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict were also discussed between the U.S. and Armenian sides.

At a news conference held in Yerevan James Collins pointed out to the progress Armenia has attained on the matter of implementation of economic reforms and establishment of market relations. He especially stressed Armenia's success in privatization of small and medium-size enterprises. According to him, a suitable moment for taking concrete steps on the issue of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict has come. He, in particular, said that durable cease-fire creates favorable conditions for this. Collins said that it would be better if the conflicting sides reached certain agreements before the regular summit meeting of heads of OSCE member states takes place in Budapest. James Collins called on the contending parties to take risks and make mutual concessions so that to attain mutually-acceptable agreement for the sake of peace.

U.S. State Secretary's Senior Advisor believes that aspiration of political leaders to establishment of peace should be polar. The current conflict is the tragedy for thousands of people, who are involved in this conflict. It is clear that refugees should return to their homes, whereas occupied territories should be liberated. At the same time James Collins underscored that implementation of decisions taken during negotiations might appear unpopular, however, political leaders should be ready for these steps.

Speaking on Armenia's route of the Azeri oil pipeline Collins said that this option would be possible only after crisis in Mountainous Karabakh is resolved.

As to military contacts between Armenia and the United States, Eshton Carter pointed out that current visit was the result of an agreement reached between U.S. Defense Minister William Perry and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan during latter's visit to the USA last August. Armenia's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program was the main subject of discussions between Carter and Armenian Defense Minister. Carter noted that U.S. Defense Ministry discusses the sale issue with all former Soviet Republics.

Speaking on programs of the U.S. economic assistance to Armenia, Richard Morningstar announced that last fiscal year Armenia was donated assistance worth 141 mln USD, of which 123 mln USD were donated in humanitarian aid. It is expected that level of the U.S. assistance to Armenia will remain intact in the coming fiscal year. The sides came to an agreement that in future level of the assistance should be cut down, whereas sums allocated for technical and long-term assistance should be increased.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With U.S. Delegation

LD0311213895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2033 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 3 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov received a U.S. government delegation in Baku Friday. Coordinator of the Department for Relations with Newly Independent States James Collins heads the delegation.

Gasanov was satisfied with President Clinton's personal involvement in Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement and underlined that his country was ready to compromise within the limits of its constitution.

Gasanov supported strengthening bilateral political, economic and humanitarian relations. Top priority should be given to the participation of U.S. oil companies in the exploration of oil fields in Azerbaijan's sector of the Caspian shelf.

Gasanov said Azerbaijan's further integration in European and international institutions will be one of the main subjects of the future talks.

For his part, Collins said the United States is ready to discuss a wide range of issues, including military issues.

Aliyev Discusses Ties With U.S. Official

NC0311222595 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev was receiving a delegation headed by James Collins, the U.S. secretary of state's adviser on CIS affairs, as our program went on the air. Now the report is ready and we bring it to you.

[Begin recording] [Aliyev] Esteemed Mr. Collins, esteemed guests, I greet and welcome you, and consider the visit of such a high-level U.S. delegation as very significant. I was in your country some days ago, where we together celebrated the 50th anniversary of the UN in New York. The gathering was a major event. Each Azerbaijani citizen, and all of us, feel proud at the presence and participation of independent Azerbaijan in the gathering of the 184 states. While in New York, I held very productive talks. Our meeting with U.S. President Esteemed Mr. Bill Clinton and the talks and conversation between us was of great importance for Azerbaijan. I want to reiterate that I was pleased with that meeting, and that the close ties established between our countries and personally between Mr. Bill Clinton and myself are of great importance for us. I highly assess this meeting and believe that it forms an important foundation for the development of ties of friendship and cooperation between United States and Azerbaijan. I convey my special thanks to the U.S. government and New Yorkers for the attention, care, and hospitality shown to the Azerbaijani delegates while in New York. I believe this many heads of state and government had never gathered in New York in the last 50 years. The U.S. government, the New York mayor, and other relevant officials superbly organized the event, and we were the witness to that. I also thank the leaders of the U.S. oil companies cooperating with Azerbaijan for the care and attention shown to the Azerbaijani delegation. Despite the fact that your stay in Azerbaijan will be very short, we on our part will show our hospitality to you. I do not know to what extent we will succeed in this, but you can rest assured that we are receiving you with an open heart, as a friend. Our actual aim is to take this opportunity to spur the development of ties between the United States and Azerbaijan, and especially to further the successes achieved during my meeting with President Clinton. I again greet you and I am sure we will hold beneficial talks with you.

[Collins in English with Russian translation provided by interpreter] As always the warmth of your hospitality is very great and we are very pleased to be here. We too wish our stay could be longer, but we have already had some very good discussions with the minister of foreign affairs; minister of defense; Mr. Guliyev, speaker of your parliament, and we looked forward to the discussion with you of course. I want first to bring you greetings from President Clinton who asked that I convey them to you in person, and also express his personal condolences for the tragedy that occurred in your subway here a few days ago. Let me also simply say on behalf of all the people you mentioned who organized the 50th anniversary of the UN that it was an honor to have the president of an independent Azerbaijan in New York for that occasion. It was an opportunity, I think, for the world to affirm certain principles, and for the United States to affirm certain principles. I think those principles are embodied in the Charter of the UN. In the greatest and most fundamental sense they are the promise of independence, security, and the right of all nations to live in peace. For our part, it was an honor again to have you and the president meet, and for us to be able to affirm again our support for a free, secure, and independent Azerbaijan. We look to the future prosperity of a secure and independent Azerbaijan. In that meeting I know President Clinton expressed to you his respect for the courage and the importance of the decision you have made about developing your country's energy resources and the marketing of them through multiple pipelines. We know that this is an important development for the future of Azerbaijan and for relations between Azerbaijan and the outside world, and we are anxious to take part in fulfilling its promise. I also know that President Clinton spoke with you about the importance of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

He also, I think, expressed to you his readiness, indeed his determination, if we can find the right steps to support you and the other parties in taking risks for peace. I and my colleagues here also have come to work with you and your government in the further development of our bilateral relations. And to follow up the promise of deeper and broadening relations that the meeting you had with our president represented. So, let me again thank you for the opportunity to meet, and

I would appreciate your thoughts about next steps we should be taking to develop our relations.

[Aliyev] Esteemed Mr. Collins I thank you for your words. You very correctly explained the real themes of the talks between me and Mr. Clinton: first of all, the broadening and development of ties between the United States and Azerbaijan, the joint exploitation of the oil fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, the activity of the consortium, and the related issue of the export of the produced oil, including the issue of laying the pipeline, and specially the peaceful resolution of the military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We discussed these issues in detail with Mr. Clinton; we had a broad exchange of views. And, I was very pleased, and told reporters after that meeting that President Clinton is personally involved in the peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, which is the most grave and difficult one for Azerbaijan. Yesterday, Ambassador Mr. Kauzlarich handed me a new letter from Mr. Clinton on these issues. This once again demonstrates the importance given to these problems by the United States and its president Bill Clinton personally. I believe our cooperation has been successfully developing in the last year. We are planning to sign a new project with the participation of the U.S. oil company Pennzoil on 10 November. Today, I received the president of the U.S. oil company UNICOL. We spoke about our joint projects, and I believe that good perspectives exist here too. You told me you have been working intensely since this morning and held many talks. Maybe in that way you somewhat lightened our evening work. Nevertheless, these issues still have to be discussed. You have a tight schedule in Azerbaijan in the morning. Not two, but five or six days are needed to complete your work. Mr. Kauzlarich too is of the same opinion, and I see that he concurs with me. However, you have drawn up a very tight schedule for yourself.

[Collins] Mr. Kauzlarich put five days in two [laughter and exchange of pleasantries in Russian]

[Aliyev] Rather, he told me that though he proposed five days Mr. Collins thinks it cannot be more than two days. Nevertheless, we can accomplish much work in this period. [end recording]

U.S.-Saudi Team Plan To Build Turkmenistan-India Pipeline

NC0311183095 Baku TURAN in English
1349 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/03.11.95/TURAN—Today the president of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev received the delegation of the US company UNOCAL John Aimle and Vice President of Saudian Company Osman Galdirim [name as received]. John Aimle said that he had arrived in Baku from Islamabad when he heard about the tragedy in the underground. He brought medicines as humanitarian aid.

Two agreements on the transportation of oil and gas between UNOCAL-DELTA the leadership of Turkmenistan had been signed recently.

"The agreement on gas is more real and concrete," Aimle said. According to him, this agreement provides development and transportation of gas fields on the border of Turkmenistan with Afghanistan. The route of the pipeline will go through the territory of Pakistan to India. 20 billion cubic feet of gas will be transported per year.

"We are going to built the oil pipelines in parallel with gas pipeline till the Indian port Guadara. It is a deep-water port and the oil can be taken out from there only by tankers," Aimle said. It is expected that the capacity of the pipeline will be 750,000 barrels per day, the guest noted.

"We expect that not only Turkmenistan, but the Kazakhstan and Western-Siberian oil will be transported through it," Aimle said.

He told that the leadership of SOCAR received an offer from UNOCAL for carrying our joint works in the Turkmenian sector of the Caspian. He added, that the oil produced there will also be transported by this route. "The countries willing to transport their oil to the world markets will become our potential clients," Aimle said. According to him, the company has already received the support by the governments of the US, Russia and Turkmenistan.

Geydar Aliyev said that [Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov] "Turkmenbashi had signed many agreements but non of them was implemented."

"This time he knows with whom he had signed the contract," Aimle said. He added that "there is much gas in Turkmenistan and the route of the gas going to the West must be straight: Turkmenistan- Azerbaijan-Turkey," noted Aimle. He showed the president two maps with the routes of the oil and gas pipelines.

Then the meeting was held behind the closed doors.

It became known from the informed sources that the president of UNOCAL received today an official consent of Baku for joining this company the new consortium for the development of "Karabakh" field. It is expected that share of UNOCAL in the consortium will total 5-7 percent. Besides, the following companies will enter the consortium: LUKoil and SOCAR 7.5 percent each, AGIP - 5 percent, PENNZOIL - 30 percent and the alliance LUKoil-AGIP - 50 percent.

It is expected that UNOCAL will receive part or whole share of SOCAR [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic].

Media Warned Against 'Sensation-Hunting' Over Metro Fire

NC0311182895 Baku TURAN in English 0849 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/03.11.95/TURAN—"Any information about the reasons of underground tragedy October 28 should be considered groundless before completion of investigation", the investigator of Prosecutor's Office, Ilham Guliyev, told TURAN's correspondent.

Guliyev said the investigation considers all possible versions. "The investigation will be objective, cause the experts and specialists from the countries of Far and Near abroad are also engaged in it", he noted. At present the specialists carefully examine the carriages of the train, in which the fire started", Guliyev said.

The head of the press-service of the Prosecutor's Office, Etibar Rahimov, noted the basic purpose of the experts dealing with expertise of the trains is to determine whether the fire arisen due to technical reasons or no. He said the information of mass media that special chemical substances or paralytical war gases have caused death of people in the underground is a "sensation-hunting". "It can be proved only by experts and specialists-chemists, but not journalists", Rahimov mentioned.

A Russian expert also noted he cannot express his opinion on the reasons of the tragedy before final investigation of the carriages of the train.

No Trace of Poison Gas Found

LD0311131295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1159 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 3 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani army experts have found no trace of war gas in the charred cars of the Baku subway. The cars caught fire on October 28.

The man who leads the Defense Ministry expert team, Colonel Khidzhiran Rustamzade, blames the death of 288 passengers on high voltage or the use of explosives.

The central chemical laboratory of the Defense Ministry Chemical Corps staff did some special research but found no trace of highly effective war gases in the air, on the ground, on the victims' clothes and in the victims' blood, Rustamzade told Interfax.

Experts Say Fire Caused By Short Circuit

LD0411213695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1535 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Nov 4 (Interfax) — A short circuit in the electric wiring of the train's fourth carriage caused the fire in the Baku metro on October 28, according to preliminary data. As a result about 300 people died, leader of Swedish experts Kurt Nielsen told Interfax Saturday.

The fire started under the bottom of the carriage near the mounting of one of the wheel landing gears, he said.

Nielsen said that there is no reason to speak about an explosion, sabotage or subversive action given the state of the melted metallic components and testimonies by witnesses.

The tragedy in the Baku metro is the most serious one in the world history.

Moscow 'Experts' Cast Doubt on Metro Report

LD0411221895 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Correspondent Mais Mamedov video report from Baku; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The outcome of the investigation into the fire in the Baku subway system on 28 October was expected today in Azerbaijan. The republic's law enforcement bodies believe the tragedy, which killed 289 people, was caused by a short circuit in the electric wiring of the train's carriage. Experts from the Moscow subway system who helped their Baku colleagues in the investigation have their own version of the accident, which has little in common with the official verdict.

[Begin A. Kadomtsev, head of a team of experts, recording; Kadomtsev identified by caption] I believe this is the work of some external forces, which resulted in such a huge fire. [end recording]

[Begin V. Smirnov, chief designer of the Mytishchi carriage-building plant, recording] Judging from the results of investigations into fires in the Moscow subway system, I can say without doubt that the power of a short circuit is not sufficient to inflict such damage. [end recording]

Several people have been arrested, Azerbaijan's television reported today, quoting the National Security

Ministry. Arms, rounds of ammunition, explosives, and, what is more, a remote control device for carrying out terrorist acts have been found on them. Criminal proceedings have been instituted. An investigation is under way.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Condemns Assassination of Rabin

LD0511110095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0826 GMT 5 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 5 Nov — The Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, today described the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as a "barbaric act."

Speaking to journalists after voting at a polling station in Vake District of Tbilisi, (presidential and parliamentary elections are being held in Georgia today), Eduard Shevardnadze said he is concerned about the present day world's helplessness in combating terrorism.

According to Shevardnadze, "aggressive separatism and nationalism" are a breeding ground for terrorism.

The Georgian leader said he has expressed his condolences to the people and government of Israel in connection with the assassination of the prime minister of that country.

Shevardnadze said his official statement in connection with the tragedy in Tel Aviv will be circulated today.

Shevardnadze May Fly to Israel

LD0511125695 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1135 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 5 Nov — An IPRINDA correspondent reports that Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze cast his vote at the No 2 polling station in a central district of Tbilisi. Having cast a ballot, Shevardnadze said that the fate of the republic was being decided today. The elections will, in his words, decide the further fate of Georgia, because the next 4-5 years will show the way of Georgia's further development.

Then, Shevardnadze said he was exasperated by a terrorist act against Yitzhaq Rabin. The head of state said the following: "I knew him in person and I regard him as a great political hero who did almost the impossible for the whole world and the people, considering primarily their interests. He was not understood by all, but he made a right choice. What worries me is the powerlessness of the whole world, the impossibility of protecting people who struggle for peace or preventing fresh conflicts. I am worried by the incapacity of the world community in fighting against aggressive barbarity, separatism, aggressive nationalism, and fundamentalism.

"If the elections go off in a normal way, I do not rule out that I will fly to Israel tomorrow. I know the president of Israel well; I know his stance. I believe that the people of Israel will not deviate from the present course; this is the only realistic course."

Shevardnadze Seeks UNSC Terrorism Session

LD0511175795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Nov 5 (Interfax) - Shocked by the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze urged the Security Council's member-states to gather for an emergency session to discuss ways of combating terrorism.

Shevardnadze's statement says that he was deeply shocked and outraged by Rabin's barbaric assassination.

However, personal feelings must be brushed aside now, wrote Shevardnadze. "We must overcome weakness and stop the dark forces which are taking the lives of the heroes struggling for the human ideals," he wrote.

"Indifference is provoking terrorists and murderers to commit crimes against humanity," stated Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Denies Plans To Deploy Russian Nuclear Weapons

LD0411211695 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Various rumors are spreading as the election day approaches. We would like to acquaint you with one letter.

To: Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze.

Sir, according to information currently in my possession, the Russian side intends to deploy medium-range rockets with nuclear warheads in Batumi and Akhalkalaki in the near future. The consequences need no comments. You are requested to exercise vigilance and guarantee nonexecution of the plans. The letter will be made public.

[Signed] Nodar Natadze, chairman of the parliamentary commission for defense and national security [chairman of the United Republican Party], 3 November.

To: Nodar Natadze.

The information in your possession is from the arsenal of gossip and rumor fabricated in the camp of malevolent people in order to influence the results of the elections. Eduard Shevardnadze. Postscript: The above letter will be made public.

Reportage, Commentary on Georgian Elections

Trouble-Free Elections Promised

LD0311132995 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Statement by Major General Adtandil Ioseliani, acting chairman of the Georgian State Security Service—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our data, the preparation for the elections is proceeding in a normal manner everywhere. There have been no excesses but I would like to draw your attention to one thing: The closer to election day the more tense the situation will become in some of the regions. In particular, we have received verified operational information that members of the remaining illegal formations of the former president's [Zviad Gamsakhurdia] supporters are planning to wreck the elections on 5 November in Zugdidi by carrying out terrorist and subversive acts at polling stations and at the bodies of administrative and local management. We know this group but not every member has been arrested and, as yet, some members are still at large. So, on 5 November it is expected that they will... [changes thought]. All this has been confirmed to us. The day before yesterday [31 October], the town police directorate arrested one of the members of the formation which had been detained; if you remember, a group of 10 terrorists was arrested in Tbilisi. This person is the 11th member of this group and he has confirmed everything that the 10 members told us. At the same time he said that such and such, what I have already told you, was being prepared. This information has also been confirmed by our operational sources.

In connection with this, today, an operation was carried out in the flat of one of the wanted men. As a result of this, he offered resistance to the joint group of police and Security Service personnel who were acting together and he was killed. A group from the prosecutor's office and the police went to the scene and found that he had one F-1 type [fragmentation] hand grenade and one RGD type hand grenade. That is what happened.

In connection with this, I would like to... [changes thought]. I would like to give you another instance. On 30 October, Ninidze took other members of the Zugdidi police, Robert Khvitia, and Khurtsilava, to arrest a member of the illegal formation named Toloraia. He [Toloraia] activated a RGD type hand grenade and seriously wounded himself, Khvitia was taken to intensive care immediately, Khurtsilava was wounded, and Toloraia escaped. They [the illegal formations] are waking up. I must declare that neither we [State Security Service] nor the Interior Ministry will allow illegal formations or other groups to prevent the elections in Georgia. All our services have been mobilized. As far as I know from Batoni [polite form of address] Shota [Interior Minister Kviraia], the whole of the Interior Ministry has been mobilized. We will do everything and make every effort to hold normal and proper elections in Georgia.

Foreign Observers To Monitor Election

LD0411124495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, November 4 (Itar-Tass) — Televised appearances by all Georgian presidential candidates conclude the election struggle. Each candidate will have ten minutes on the air, the Central Electoral Commission stated. Not only the presidential but also the parliamentary elections will be held in Georgia on Sunday, November 5. Altogether 225 deputies are to be elected to the Georgian parliament, 150 of them on party tickets and 75 from one-seat constituencies.

Panteleimon Georgadze, chief of the United Georgian Communist Party, already appeared on national television. Georgadze, presidential candidate, urged his supporters to cast their ballots for another candidate, Jumber Patiashvili.

Patiashvili, 55, who was First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party in 1985-1989 is regarded as the likeliest rival of Eduard Shevardnadze in the competition for the presidency. There are reports that Georgadze is not going to withdraw his candidature and approach the Central Electoral Commission in this connection.

Academician Vano Kiguradze, Chairman of the Georgian Central Electoral Commission, told journalists that there will be no election in one-seat constituencies in those Georgian districts to which the jurisdiction of the central government does not apply. The territory of Abkhazia and South Ossetia is meant.

Kiguradze said that refugees from Abkhazia and South Ossetia given shelter in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and other Georgian cities and districts will participate in the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in those constituencies were deputies run on party tickets.

As many as 175 foreign observers, ten of them Russian, will monitor the elections. The overwhelming majority of them arrived in Georgia along the lines of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Georgiy Rudov of Russia, one of those representing OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], said there will be deputies of the State Duma among Russian observers. Russia is interested in the elections in Georgia being held democratically, he said.

Shevardnadze Gives Election Address

LD0411152895 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Election address by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends: As you know, I am not participating in television debates for obvious reasons. I have submitted my election program to the public referendum for general discussion and consideration. I have not heard another program for the last two months and neither has anyone presented one. It is clear that drawing up a program for leading the country out of crisis and for the revival of the country is far more difficult than lying, slandering, and giving false promises, which have flown out in profusion from television screens.

The only aim of my meeting with you today is to remind you once again that Georgia's fate will be decided tomorrow [5 November]. Let us remember these minutes and words: The fate of our country, our freedom and independence, territorial integrity, economic and spiritual revival is being decided. None of you, dear compatriots, have the right to fail to go to the ballot boxes and express your wish. Listen only to your conscience. Act according to your conscience and brain.

Once again, I remind you that tomorrow is a decisive and historic day and tomorrow the fate of our cherished country will be decided. Thank you.

Giorgadze Urges Vote for Patiashvili

LD0411151195 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Election address by Panteleimon Giorgadze, chairman of the United Communist Party; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear electors: What can I tell you during these 10 minutes. I am always excited when I address you and talk to you. Indeed, Georgia's future depends on you.

You will decide yourself who you will vote for tomorrow, but I once again appeal to you to cast your votes for Jumber Patiashvili as president, and I assure you that he will be the worthy president. I appeal to you to cast your votes for the bloc of the Georgian United Communist Party and the Social-Democrats; its number is four. I assure you that this bloc will be the one that protects your interests, the interests of the working people, our people.

You may be wondering why I have never requested you, the voters, to vote for me, Panteleimon Giorgadze. Was it worth nominating me for the presidency? Yes, it was. We intended to tell you what our parties — the Georgian United Communist Party and Social-Democratic Party — were and remain worried about.

It is true that other parties also have aired severe criticism against the current regime and its leadership, but our criticism, the criticism of the party of the working people sounds completely different. This is the party that, a long time ago, was betrayed by its leaders; the party whose former party generals are now the most ruthless enemies of the party. [passage omitted]

We want the world, and especially the West, to know what state today's Georgia is in and how Georgia is governed by Eduard Shevardnadze, who is vaunted in the West. We have achieved our goal. We have tried to acquaint the West with our democrat, who regards himself as an architect of the European House, a representative of fresh mentality, and a fighter for this. In fact, he destroyed, down to the foundation, the Georgian House which was built by many generations and directed the mentality of his people only in one direction — how to help the family to survive, where and how to get a piece of bread and survive. We want to say and we have said that the illustrious democrat is cheating the world today like he cheated and is cheating the Georgian people while being the leader of the country. We have made an attempt to raise a curtain and show the West that a liar, however dear he might be, remains a liar and he is dangerous not only at home, but also far beyond its boundaries.

Our party also wants to tell Batoni Eduard: You, Batono Eduard, exhausted yourself as a political figure a long time ago and it is time you adjusted to the idea that an election is a normal event and it should not be transformed into tragedy. If anyone of us, including you, is not elected, it is also a normal state of affairs. As for you, a famous democrat, you have transformed the election campaign into a pre-war period and are doing everything you can to make us all and each individually confront one another.

We want to tell the people that it is impermissible that the nation depends upon one person only and especially on the person who more than once betrayed his comrades and friends. It is high time some of us recovered from shock and some from apathy and save the motherland. [passage omitted]

We want to tell friends of Batoni Eduard, who live in the West: Gentlemen, you have perfectly used provincial conceit and the profound talent for servility and bootlicking before the powerful people of the world, which have been given from above to Mr. George Shevardnadze [Shevardnadze was baptized George after returning to independent Georgia]. It is time to pity the Georgian people. [passage omitted] It is time you realized that Batoni Eduard thinks one thing, says another, and does a third for the good of Georgia. Remember that George Shevardnadze, willingly or not, alienates the Georgian people from the West. [passage omitted]

I would like to warn my people. You cannot trust people who have once carried out an act of betrayal. [passage omitted]

Communist Party Leader 'Will Not Withdraw'

LD0411181795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Panteleymon Giorgadze, leader of the United Communist Party of Georgia, today told ITAR-TASS that he will not withdraw from the struggle for the presidential post. He, therefore, has changed his decision of yesterday which was broadcast on the national television. The 70-year-old retired general said that he would not officially address the Central Electoral Commission. However, he called on supporters to vote for another candidate, the 55-year-old Dzhumber Patiashvili. ITAR-TASS says that this change of heart has been dictated by reasons of security. In case of withdrawal, Giorgadze loses his immunity status which protects candidates before the final results of the elections are announced.

Gali District Not Participating

LD0511152895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Nov 5 (Interfax) — There have been no excesses in the Gali district of Abkhazia in the area controlled by the CIS peacekeeping force, including the Gali district, CIS peacekeepers' commander Lieutenant-General Vasily Yakushev has said.

Before the Georgian-Abkhaz armed conflict the area was populated primarily by Georgians. Currently there are more than 60,000 Georgians.

However, Yakushev said, the Georgian population of the Gali district is taking no part in the Georgian parliamentary or presidential elections.

He was unable to say anything definite about the situation in the Kodor gorge. He said, however, that the peace-keepers had noticed no preparations for elections so far.

Interior Minister: No 'Serious Incidents'

LD0511211095 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 2004 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Voting on the whole territory of Georgia passed off without a serious incident. We were told this personally by Interior Minister Shota Kviraia a short while ago. He also said that despite the fact that polling stations had now closed, the police continued rigidly to enforce law and order throughout the republic, ensuring that no one would dare to disobey the decision of the majority of the population and try to create a disturbance in the country. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Wins Presidential Elections

LD0611074295 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidential and parliament elections were held in Georgia yesterday. According to preliminary data, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze has won the presidential elections.

Victory Called Triumph for Democracy

LD0611101495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, November 6 (ITAR-TASS) — In an interview with national television on Monday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said he regards the preliminary results of presidential elections in Georgia not only as his personal victory but also as a triumph of the policy of reforms aimed at building a democratic state.

"Right-Wing forces have failed to have their revenge. A triumph has been won by the forces of democracy," Shevardnadze pointed out. He said that, prior to elections he hoped he would poll 60-65 percent of the vote, but that the preliminary results of the polling surpassed his expectations.

According to preliminary data, Shevardnadze polled 70 percent of the vote.

Shevardnadze Thanks Voters for 'Right Choice'

*AU0611102495 Paris AFP in English
0955 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Nov 6 (AFP) — Georgian President-elect Eduard Shevardnadze thanked voters Monday [6 November] for looking to the future and turning their backs on the Caucasus republic's chaotic past.

"I must offer my heartfelt thanks to the Georgian people. In expressing their will they have removed the possibility of revanchism, which presented a real threat," he said in a brief television address.

Preliminary results showed he had won Sunday's presidential elections by a landslide of more than 70 percent.

"Today I can say that real forces tried to prevent the elections from taking place. But our nation is wise. The people have made the right choice," he said.

Shevardnadze added that the democratic election was a historical first in Georgia, a former Soviet republic.

"As you know, this election was a real fight. ... The people had a real choice to make," he said.

Commission Confirms Preliminary Results

*LD0611104995 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian
1020 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 6 Nov — Ivane Kighuradze, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, said that according to preliminary reports, 1,902,000 electors, that is, 62.25 percent of the total number, had cast their votes by 2000 on 5 November. According to the Central Electoral Commission, Eduard Shevardnadze is leading in the presidential election with about 70 percent of votes cast for him. Among parties, the National Democratic Party and the Union of Georgian Citizens are leading. The elections were attended by 175 observers from almost all the countries of the world.

Estonia

Meri Says U.S. Backs Estonia's NATO Entry

*LD0311174095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1720 GMT 3 Nov 95*

[By Albert Maloveryan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, November 3 (ITAR-TASS) — The United States — U.S. Vice President Al Gore — supported Estonia's admission to NATO, Estonian President Lennart Meri said on Friday.

Meri returned to Tallinn from his two-week tour of the United States and Mexico City.

During a brief press conference at the Tallinn airport, Meri said that those he met on the American continent, including political leaders, supported Estonia's readiness to join NATO.

President Meri Leaves For Rabin's Funeral

*LD0511172395 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1600 GMT 5 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri today left for Jerusalem to attend Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral. In his condolences Meri said that the world has lost a hero of the Middle East peace process.

Prime Minister Tiit Vahi sent his condolences to Shim'on Peres, the acting prime minister and foreign minister of Israel.

Meri Approves, Comments on New Government

*LD0311210395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1900 GMT 3 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Estonian President Lennart Meri today approved a new cabinet of ministers headed by Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

Meri said the new Estonian Government should focus on the processes in Russia "where forces which are interested in restoring the ex-USSR's borders are gathering." He said he believed that Estonia should offer "a strong economic policy" to such forces as a counter-measure.

The new cabinet was formed from a coalition of three political organizations: The Coalition Party of Estonia (six posts in the cabinet, including the prime minister), the Party of Reforms (six posts, including the first deputy prime minister and the foreign minister) and the bloc embracing the Agrarian Union and the Union of Pensioners and Families (three posts).

No women grace the new cabinet. Seven of the fifteen ministers, including Vahi, were part of the previous cabinet which resigned on October 12 over a scandal which was nicknamed the "Estonian Watergate."

The scandal broke out after the Estonian Security Police accused Interior Minister Edgar Savisaara of organizing wire-tapping of telephone talks among the country's leading statesmen.

The president nominated Tiit Vahi as a candidate for prime minister in line with the Estonian Constitution and instructed him to form the new cabinet.

Vahi said in the parliament in late October that the government intended to continue the policy aimed at economic liberalization and in particular at speeding up privatization and land reform.

Vahi said with regard to the cabinet's foreign policy that the new government would favor Estonia's integration with international structures, primarily the European Union and NATO, and normalization of relations with Russia.

The new Estonian cabinet is to be sworn in by the parliament on November 6.

New Government Appointees Listed

*WS0611094595 Tallinn ETA in English
1658 GMT 5 Nov 95*

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri appointed the new Estonian government on Friday [3 November] on his return from visit to the U.S.

The new Cabinet is led by Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

The list of ministers approved of by the President was as follows:

Prime Minister Tiit Vahi (C)
Justice Minister Paul Varul (C)
Defence Minister Andrus Oovel (C)
Environment Minister Villu Reiljan (CPU)
Culture and Education Minister Jaak Aaviksoo (R)
Transport and Communications Minister Kalev Kukk (R)
Economy Minister Andres Lipstok (R)
Agriculture Minister Ilmar Mandmets (CPU)
Finance Minister Mart Opmann (C)
Interior Minister Mart Rask (R)
Social Minister Toomas Vilosius (R)
Foreign Minister Siim Kallas (R)
Minister Jaak Allik (C)
Minister Endel Lippmaa (C)
Minister Tiit Kubri (CPU)

C - Coalition Party; CPU - Country Peoples Union; R - Reform Party

One of the pluses of the Cabinet is that several members have been ministers before and do not need time for learning the ropes, Vahi said. The minus is that the government has no women, Vahi said, adding that this would be a result of the manly times.

President Meri wished all the best to the new Cabinet, saying that he knew all its members as active persons.

President was convinced that the new government would succeed in carrying out efficient economic policy.

The government has two academicians and one professor. Endel Lippmaa, Minister of European Affairs, and Jaak Aaviksoo, Education Minister, are the academicians and Justice Minister Paul Varul is the Professor.

Ten of the 15 ministers have graduated from Tartu University, Jaak Aaviksoo is even assistant rector of the university.

Prime Minister Tiit Vahi and Endel Lippmaa come from the Tallinn Technical University. Agriculture Minister Ilmar Mandmets, Regional Minister Tiit Kubri and Environment Minister Villu Reiljan have graduated from the Estonian Agricultural Academy.

Lithuania

Slezevicius, Gylys Attend Rabin's Funeral

LD0611110595 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Lithuanian delegation is among those attending today's funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The delegation is headed by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, and includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Povilas Gylys, and Kazys Bobelis, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee.

Landsbergis Blasts 'High-Handed' Slezevicius, 'Weak' Policy

LD0611124095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vytautas Landsbergis, the chairman of the Homeland Union, began his news conference today with a commentary about the tragic and evil event in Israel.

Landsbergis' letter to the Israeli Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, expresses condolences and says that the three shots were aimed not only at the great man, but also at the movement toward freedom, justice, and stabilization, for which Yitzhaq Rabin had struggled. Landsbergis also expressed the hope that the dawn of peace will not turn into darkness.

Landsbergis also presented extensive comments on the statement by the political council of the Homeland Union on relations between Lithuania and Latvia. The document says that during the period of changes in Latvia, the forces in that country, striving for open confrontation with Lithuania, became more active. Meanwhile, the Lithuanian leadership not only failed to protect the country's interests and avoid the conflict, but is also now openly [?exhibiting] this conflict with its neighbor, despite the fact that it [Lithuanian leadership] itself made grave mistakes while tackling this problem.

It should be noted that at the same time no response is given to the similar or even coordinated actions by Russia, which is actively claiming for the Lithuanian oil deposit in the Baltic Sea near Nida again, the statement says. Bearing in mind Russia's intention to delay the integration of the Baltic countries into the European Union and NATO, the disagreements between Lithuania and Latvia on the maritime border can be assessed as Russia's success, maybe even influenced by Russia herself, the document says.

The statement notes that the weak, unimaginative, and passive foreign policies of Lithuania and high-handed diplomacy of Prime Minister [Adolfas Slezevicius] inflict enormous political and economic losses on the country. It is deplorable that the governments of both countries [Lithuania and Latvia] lack firm political priorities. The major priorities must be the concord, the European integration, as well as avoidance and prevention of confrontational steps that harm this integration the most, the document says. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Replacement of Envoy in Moscow

LD0311171495 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that indeed there are intentions to appoint Petras Zapolskas, [the director of the political department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs], to a diplomatic post at one of the Lithuanian embassies in 1996, but it will not be the post of ambassador to Russia.

The report also says that the ministry does not plan relieving the ambassador in Moscow, Romualdas Kozyrovicius, from his post in either 1995 or 1996. The document expresses regret that the sources of the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper were not entirely correct on this occasion.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.